- **ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1**
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, February 8, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 62 P18 website: www.inq7.net

High prices force Filipinos to scrimp on food, says poll

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HIGH PRICES ARE ALTERING THE CONSUMING behavior of Filipinos so much that their overall spending on beverages and personal care items has shrunk, according to a survey by a British market research firm.

To survive, poor households are scrimping on food, soft drinks, cooking oil and snacks, and are

HIGH/ A4

Ma'am GMA teaches kids English, geography

By Christine O. Avendaño

FOR CLOSE TO 40 MINutes yesterday, President Macapagal-Arroyo played school teacher and storyteller to a class of Grade 1 pupils at a Mandaluyong

MA'AM/ A8

TINURUAN
NYA KAYA
NG CHA-CHA?

'Treated like animals'

JOAN BONDOC

INVESTIGATING task force chief Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus wraps up his work begun Sunday and turns over his comprehensive and damning report to the justice department on Tuesday.

Probers cite what triggered stampede

By Norman Bordadora and Armand N. Nocum

TICKETS OFFERED BY SHOW ORGANIZERS TO a sleepless and hungry throng for a chance at a piece of heaven led instead to hellish death.

This, in a nutshell, was what Interior Undersecretary for Peace and Order Marius Corpus said of the circumstances behind the stampede on Saturday that marked what was to be the first anniversary celebration of ABS-CBN's daily noontime show "Wowowee."

"They were exploited, manipulated and treated like animals," Corpus said yesterday at a news conference called to present the findings of the inter-agency Task Force Ultra.

"Offering so few tickets to so many people can be likened to throwing a small slice of meat to a pack of hungry wolves. This triggered the stampede," he said.

Corpus, however, would neither name names nor say what criminal liability awaited those deemed responsible for the anniversary show, the enormous crowd that had gathered, the stampede, and the way the crisis was handled.

Asked why he would not name names given the task force's fact-finding task, Corpus said at least three persons from among those involved in safety and secu-

TREATED/ A18

Gov't could cancel ABS-CBN license

By Philip C. Tubeza

A POWERFUL STATE REGULATORy body yesterday said ABS-CBN could lose its authority to run one of the country's giant television networks but this would depend on the degree of its offense in the wake of last weekend's deadly stampede.

If the National Telecommunications Commission determines that the network was delinquent in providing enough measures to protect those who went to see its popular "Wowowee" game show, its "authority to operate" could be suspended or even revoked, NTC Chair Ronald Solis said.

The NTC is the sole body with responsibility to supervise and control all radio and television broadcasting stations and other telecommunications services throughout the country.

"We will find out if indeed there is administrative culpability on the part of the network," Solis said.

"The most severe penalty is revocation of authorization ... But it really depends on the gravity of the offense. We will have to weigh this carefully."

Solis denied the government was trying to lean hard on the Lopez-owned network giant, which has been critical of the Arroyo administration of late.

"People would always say that, but then, we've been holding in-

GOVERNMENT/ A17

THIS RENDEZVOUS in Cebu, Nov. 2, 2005, for Manny Pacquiao, his ex-girlfriend Joanna Rose Bacosa and their alleged love child, born Jan. 2, 2004, turned out to be their last. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gabby outraged by opinion of probe chief

A GRIM-FACED EUGENIO "Gabby" Lopez III yesterday claimed responsibility for the Saturday stampede that killed 74 people, but said he was "outraged" at the statement of the Task Force Ultra chair that the crowd seeking entry to the "Wowowee" anniversary show had been "treated like animals."

In a brief televised message, the chair and chief executive officer of ABS-CBN said the network would continue to work with the government. He said there would be "no whitewash," apparently addressing speculations that ABS-CBN could influence the outcome of the investigation ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This was the full text of Lopez's message:

"I am responsible and I will hold myself accountable should our justice system so determine in the future. There will be no whitewash. We will continue to work with the government and all its agencies.

"Having said that, we are outraged at the task force statement characterizing our program as one where we treated people like animals. Our record over the last 30 years speaks for itself. We have covered events—some [involving] over 100,000 [people]—over the years.

"While we acknowledge that we may possibly have had some shortcomings, a callous and malicious disregard for the people is not one of them."

On the eve of the stampede, ABS-CBN executives in charge of the daily noontime show decided to tell the crowd massed outside the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City that not everyone

GABBY/ A18

A woman 'scorned' takes swing at Pacman

By Gerry Lirio

IT WAS TRUE LOVE GONE wrong. Or so the woman scorned said.

Until last year, Manny Pacquiao and his girlfriend of more than two years were two people blissfully enjoying stolen moments together.

Their relationship resulted in the birth of a healthy boy, according to Pacquiao's girlfriend, Joanna Rose Bacosa, a 24-year-old native of Palawan.

Today, Bacosa is pursuing a complaint against Pacquiao for violation of Republic Act No. 9262, which protects women from violence, and to seek support for the boy.

The INQUIRER attempted to get Pacquiao's side of the story, but calls to his cell phone went unanswered.

A WOMAN/ A4

₱3.1-M GRANT

RP doc's proposal wins, benefits kids with Big C

By Christian V. Esguerra

GOOD NEWS FOR CHILDREN battling the cancer monster.

The Philippines has won a 50,000-euro grant from an international pharmaceutical company to jump-start a campaign against childhood cancers.

The winning proposal of Dr. Julius Lecciones of the Philippine Society of Pediatric Oncology (PSPO) will receive roughly P3.12 million from Sanofi-Aventis, the top drug company in Europe and the third largest in the world.

Lecciones' project, which outlines the creation and training of multidisciplinary teams to help combat cancers among children nationwide, bested at least six other local entries vying for the grant launched by Sanofi -Aventis and the International Union Against Cancer last year.

Lecciones' winning proposal involves two phases aimed at creating awareness about the serious problem of childhood cancer and mobilizing people to do something about it.

Some 3,500 Filipino children are diagnosed with cancer yearly, according to the 2005 Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates.

The Philippines is among the 10 pilot countries in the massive campaign against the disease. The others are Bangladesh, Egypt, Honduras, Morocco, Senegal, Tanzania, Ukraine, Venezuela and Vietnam.

In a press conference in Quezon City yesterday, Lecciones said these countries were chosen probably because their cancer problems were "linked to poverty."

Of the 3,500 cancer cases diagnosed annually, between 40 and 60 percent involve acute lymphoblastic leukemia and retinoblastoma (eye cancer).

"Only two out of 10 patients survive while at least eight out of 10 are already in the advanced stage [when diagnosed]," Lec-

RP DOC'S/ A8

REM ZAMORA

HERO'S BURIAL
The United States honors Chief Warrant Officer Ruel Garcia, a Fil-Am pilot killed in Iraq last month. US Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Paul W. Jones presents the Stars and Stripes to Garcia's widow, Apple, at the funeral rites on Tuesday in Valenzuela City.

Fil-Am sex offender arrested in Las Piñas

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

A MAN OF FILIPINO DESCENT wanted in Guam for allegedly sodomizing two 9-year-old children in that US territory has been arrested by the Philippine police on a tip from US federal marshals.

The man, identified in US documents as "federal fugitive" Raymond Clark Dominguez, was arrested on Monday at the BF International Subdivision in Las Piñas, police Supt. Dionardo Carlos said.

Carlos led the group of agents from the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) and the Philippine Commission for Transnational Crimes who carried out the arrest.

A team of US federal marshals from the District of Guam had been in Manila since Wednesday last week to help the Philippine police track down Dominguez.

"He did not resist arrest," Carlos said.

Dominguez was to have been deported to Guam last night but his departure was delayed pending the processing of his papers. He was expected to be flown out of the country today.

The US team headed by Deputy Jessie Curry coordinated with Carlos' office in pursuing Dominguez's case.

US documents describe Dominguez as of Filipino descent who was born in the United States and is also known as Raymund Panganiban Dominguez.

Quoting documents, police said Dominguez fled Guam after two warrants of arrest were issued against him for two cases of sodomy, one in 2004 and another in 2005.

He was also being investigated in connection with other cases of child battery, according to the documents.

An information profile on Dominguez from the US District Marshal in Guam described him as a "sexually violent predator."

The Regional Security Office of the US state department had cancelled Dominguez's passport, making him an undocumented

FIL-AM/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol, Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Widespread rains may trigger flashfloods and landslides over the Eastern section of Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/02/08/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Rains

Cory open to link-up with Erap

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO YESterday left open the possibility of a political alliance with former President Joseph Estrada in efforts to end the current political crisis.

Speaking to reporters at the Cojuangco Building in Makati City, Aquino said there was "nothing political" in her "relationship" with Estrada even though she was seen and photographed with him and other opposition figures at a thanksgiving Mass Sunday at the San Juan Medical Center for the deposed President's successful eye operation.

"I'm not ruling out anything," she replied when asked if she could rule out a political alliance with Estrada. "I can't be categorical. Everything is so fluid today. What I can be more categorical on is that I'll be true to democracy and to the Filipino people."

Aquino stressed that she prayed and did nothing else during the Mass, which she attended in the company of Estrada, Senate President Franklin Drilon, former movie actress Susan Roces and key opposition leaders.

"We all prayed there. Nothing political. I visited President Estrada in the hospital and I went there to pray with him and also to pray for the victims of the stampede on Feb. 4," she said, referring to the disaster at the Philsports arena in Pasig City last Saturday which left 74 people dead and more than 300 others injured.

She said the stampede illustrated the desperation of the poor who saw the slim chance of winning in a television raffle as their big ticket out of misery.

Three administration legislators—Representatives Prospero Pichay Jr. of Surigao del Sur, Gerry Salapuddin of Basilan and Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur—immediately issued a joint statement accusing Aquino of hypocrisy for riding on the stampede and using the poverty issue against the government at the news conference.

Pichay, who was quoted lengthily in the statement, said Aquino and other opposition personalities "should also stop deceiving the public that they are not politicking."

"They should tell it to the Marines that they are not involved in politics. If trying to oust the duly elected President is not politics, then I don't know what that is," said Pichay.

He added Aquino "should also apologize to the Luisita farmers who were killed when their strike was suppressed."

Aquino said she was invited to Sunday's Mass at the hospital by Estrada, who coursed the invitation through Drilon, her longtime friend.

Reacting to reports that it was a gathering of "strange bedfellows," Aquino said she was happy that she could work with other political figures and other people as well.

Asked what she thought about the children of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos being very much around, Aquino said : "I guess that's part of our democracy. I'm still hoping they will do something to make up for whatever they'd done to our people."

Ex-president rules out people power

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER PRESIDENT AQUINO HAS RULED OUT another people power uprising to bring down President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying it may no longer be a viable option to solve the country's political problems.

"Well, things are different now, and we have other options. In 1986, there was no other option. Besides, we got to win the elections in 1986," she said in a press conference ahead of the 20th anniversary of the first people power revolution in 1986, known as Edsa 1, which swept her to power.

Aquino said that in 1986, Filipinos and foreign observers had witnessed how she was cheated by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the snap elections.

But with the democratic process having been restored and fully in place, Aquino said she would prefer that a constitutional process be followed to remove a sitting president whose mandate was under a cloud.

She said that process might necessitate the probable resignation of the President and Vice President, which could result in the Senate President acting as President and calling for a snap election.

She said the President would not be able to rule effectively unless the issue of the legitimacy of her mandate was resolved.

Aquino said the President's involvement in the "Hello Garci" scandal and eventually saying sorry for a lapse in judgment spoke for themselves.

RP, Moro rebs close to pact – KL

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA – The Philippine government and Muslim rebels are close to a deal on land claims, the key to ending a 40-year insurgency that has cost more than 120,000 lives, the facilitator of the talks said on Tuesday.

Negotiators from Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), now in this city for talks, are putting the "final touches" on a preliminary agreement on the issue, Othman Abdul Razak, special adviser to Malaysia's prime minister, told Reuters.

"We are quite optimistic. Everyone is quite optimistic. There is a ground swell in support of the peace process, especially from the Muslims," said Othman, who is facilitating the talks on behalf of Malaysia, seen by both sides as a neutral party.

A final agreement on the issue of ancestral domain could be reached by late March or early April.

"That is our timeline," Othman said, adding that a full peace accord could follow before the Muslim fasting month begins in late September.

"If everything goes smoothly, we can have it probably before Ramadan," said Othman, a strategic adviser to successive Malaysian prime ministers and a top bureaucrat with 33 years' experience. *Reuters*

State workers face layoff, or pay hike

By Michelle V. Remo and Michael Lim Ubac

SOME STATE WORKERS WILL lose their jobs and their corresponding pay but most will retain theirs and get additional pay to boot.

Under the government's plan to rationalize the bloated bureaucracy, an estimated 100,000 public positions would be abolished to save P5 billion annually in salaries.

In contrast, some 1.1 million national government workers would get a uniform P1,000 allowance monthly.

Budget Undersecretary Laura Pascua yesterday said the rationalization program, embodied under Executive Order No. 366, is targeted to be completed before the end of this year and is expected to generate the projected annual savings starting 2007.

The House of Representatives approved late yesterday the P13.1-billion supplemental budget to fund the P1,000-monthly allowance for national government workers.

The P1,000 monthly allowance would be given retroactive to Jan. 1 this year. Excluded, however, are employees and officials of government-owned -and controlled corporations and local government units.

But those who would be laid off will no longer get the chance to receive the monthly allowance.

Pascua said that government agencies have been directed to submit to the Department of Budget and Management their respective rationalization plans for approval and implementation.

Under the rationalization plan, government agencies are required to submit an enhanced organizational chart that will dissolve functions deemed unnecessary in the fulfillment of an agency's core mandates.

EO 366 states that government employees affected can either transfer to another position that will not be dissolved or voluntarily retire. Those who opt to retire will get separation benefits commensurate to their length of stay in government service.

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Reunited, Rivas opposes mom's plea

By Dona Pazzibugan

CONTROVERSIAL CAPT. CANdelaria Rivas WAS finally reunited with family and friends yesterday since her arrest last Jan. 27 after she was found in the company of escaped Oakwood mutineer Capt. Nicanor Faeldon.

But Rivas shocked everyone when she asked the Quezon City regional court to dismiss a petition filed by her mother questioning the legality of her detention.

Rivas, one of the military prosecutors in the Oakwood mutiny court martial, also told the court that it was not true that she was being prevented from seeing her family.

Incredulous lawyers from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines who had volunteered to help her family said Rivas was speaking "under duress."

The Armed Forces was forced to produce Rivas after Judge Lita Tolentino-Genilo issued a writ for habeas corpus last Monday.

Under military escort, Rivas appeared in court fully made up, wearing a purple shirt under a brown trouser suit.

She seemed oblivious to the cameras as she sat herself between her mother and sister. With moist eyes, she smiled and bussed family and friends who approached her.

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AUCTION STYLE : PARADE

4 rescued, 6 missing at sea

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER FOUR PEOPLE adrift in a yacht were rescued Monday by the Philippine Coast Guard, another six passengers—including a 3-year-old—of a motor banca were reported missing yesterday off Occidental Mindoro.

The MB Nining left Sibolon Island in Caluya, Antique on Friday afternoon and was headed for Barangay Sta. Teresita, Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro when it was reported missing yesterday, said PCG spokesperson Commander Joseph Coyme.

The adult passengers of the MB Nining were identified as Rudy Operiana, 52; Bernard Espana, 39; Wensing Taliptip, 45; Remedios Esquela, 50; Rodella de los Santos, 35.

Coyme also said that the passengers of the stranded yacht ML Passat had been rescued and were taken aboard the PCG's search and rescue vessel Monday night.

The ML Passat yacht had four people aboard and not three as earlier reported to the PCG. All were reportedly unharmed. *With AP*

5,000 RP Muslims join protest vs Danish cartoons

By Jeoffrey Maitem
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—SOME 5,000 angry Muslims yesterday burned a Danish flag to protest the publication in Denmark of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

The protesters, mainly religious students, gathered at the city square that was secured by 40 antiriot policemen, said Senior Supt. Abubakar Mangelen Sr., the city police chief.

The speakers said that the cartoons constituted blasphemy.

In one of the illustrations, which first appeared in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten in September, the Prophet Muhammad was depicted with a lit bomb for a turban. *(See related story on Page A10.)*

Photocopies of the illustrations were distributed during the protest.

Sammy Maulana of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society said the illustrations were the handiwork of a person with a "satanic thought."

Act of blasphemy

"This is an act of blasphemy, a sacrilege, as well as a transgression on Islam and therefore cannot be easily forgotten and forgiven by those who embrace Islam as a way of life and religion. This must be condemned in the highest form," Maulana said.

Abdulmanan Gayak, a Muslim cleric, said the illustrations were "mind-setting and a mind-conditioning (effort)."

"(These are also) mind-poisoning, (made) to convince the world to believe that Prophet Muhammad is just an ordinary mortal and a terrorist himself," he said.

"It's an abominable act because why should you associate a prophet to terrorism. Prophecy deals with religion while terrorism is a demonic movement," Norodin Waguia, a Muslim professional, said.

Napocor told to speed up oil spill cleanup

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD HAS ASKED the National Power Corporation to bring in more workers to clean up the bunker oil NPC spilled at Semirara, Antique.

In a meeting at the Marine Environmental Protection Command office in Manila Friday, PCG officials reminded Napocor representatives that there should be 400 workers in the cleanup, according to PCG spokesperson Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme.

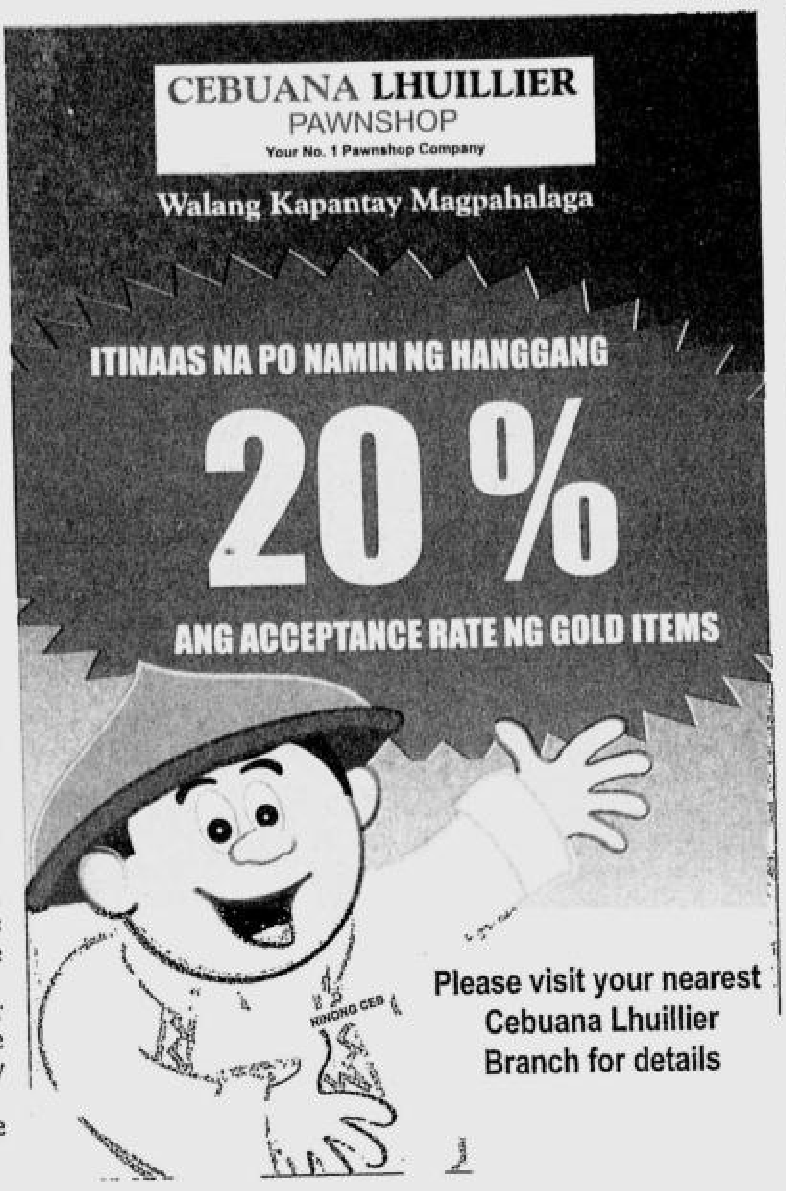
On Dec. 18, a Napocor barge ran aground off Sitio Bobog, Semirara, Antique, spilling between 200,000 and 350,000 liters of bunker fuel.

About 250 workers are removing the oil spill from the affected areas, which include 236 hectares of mangroves.

Coyme, who was present at the meeting, said Napocor officials had voiced problems about collecting money from their insurance company.

"We understand their predicament, but our concern is removing the oil as fast as possible and its effects on the environment, especially the mangroves," Coyme said.

He added that less than 10 percent of the affected area had been cleaned up.



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No plea from Dinky

By DJ Yap

FORMER SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman yesterday refused to enter a plea in the P20-million libel case filed against her by Alagad party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta but moved to have the charge dismissed instead.

The public prosecutor then entered a "not guilty" plea in her behalf, under objection from Soliman, who asked the court to act on her motion to dismiss before her arraignment.

Judge Rosanna Fe Maglaya of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 88, however, ruled that Soliman must be arraigned first before she would act on the motion.

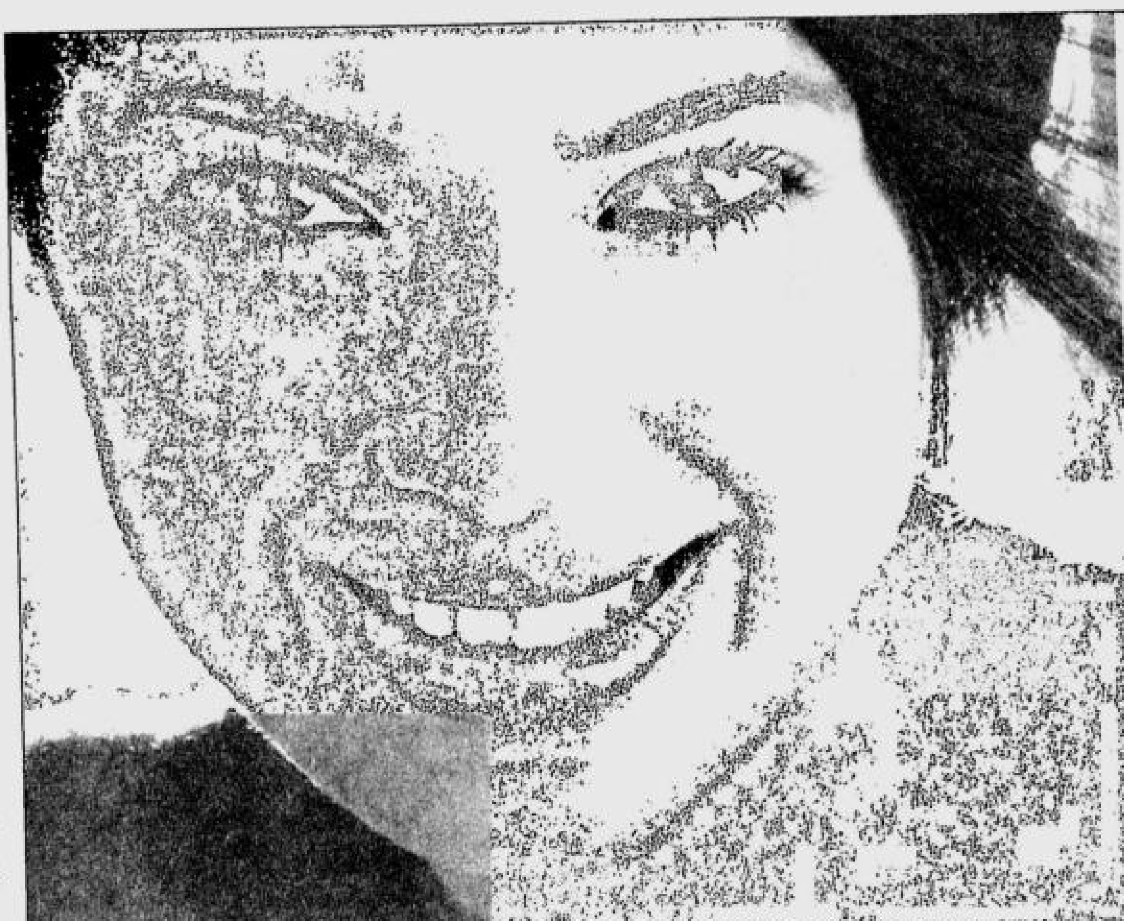
The former Cabinet member who split with President Macapagal-Arroyo over allegations the latter had cheated in the 2004 elections said the libel case was "baseless."

In her motion, Soliman said the allegations in the charge sheet did not constitute an offense, among other grounds.

Maglaya gave the public prosecutor 10 days to respond to the motion.

Soliman, who was joined at the hearing by friends and supporters including "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes, also filed a motion to travel abroad for an Asian leaders conference in Cambodia on Feb. 7-10, which the court granted.

Marcoleta filed the P20-million libel suit last year, accusing Soliman of insinuating that his endorsement of the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano in the House of Representatives against the President had the blessings of Ms Arroyo herself.



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High prices force Filipinos to scrimp on food, says poll

From page A1

dropping mineral water and deodorants, results of the 2005 TNS Worldpanel survey showed.

The survey found that Filipino households increased their spending last year, except for Class E (families living on an income of P7,500 a month).

While overall spending grew by an average of 10 percent for all households, Class E spending plunged 9.9 percent from 24 weeks ending last June 19 to 24 weeks ending last Dec. 4, according to the survey.

"Although all other socioeconomic groups were increasing or maintaining their weekly spending, only Class E expense was declining to an average of P329 per week compared with the Philippine average of P483," said Andrea Snook, Worldpanel TNS commercial director.

Spending by Class D (families with a monthly income of between P7,500 and P20,000) grew by a measly 0.1 percent.

In contrast, Class A and B households (with a monthly income of more than P40,000) jacked up their spending by 4.2 percent during the period. But the increase was lower than the 7.6-percent inflation rate last year.

Class C spending rose

The biggest jump was registered by Class C households (with a monthly income of between P20,000 and P40,000) whose spending soared 27 percent.

Comparing 24 weeks ending June 19 with 24 weeks ending Dec. 4, consumer spending on food, beverage, personal care and household products grew 2 percent, well below the inflation rate. Key declines in spending came from personal care items (-1.4 percent) and beverages (-7.7 percent).

Class E households live in slums in temporary one-room structures with no furnishings. Members of this class are usually elementary school graduates and work as manual laborers if they are not jobless.

They represent one out of every three Filipinos but they account for only a fifth of the total spending for food, personal care, household products and beverages by all households in the country.

Hardest hit

Among the key items bought by the poorest of the poor, the beverage sector took the hardest hit as families belonging to Class E spent 15.6 percent less for soft drinks and juices and fully ditching mineral water, according to Snook.

Snook said the Class E families were also dropping personal care "luxury items" such as deodorants, colognes and baby diapers.

Snook observed that while these households continued to buy cleansing bar soaps, they were stretching their use to more than 10 days compared to the previous average of nine days.

Unbranded

On food items, Class E families have stopped patronizing supermarkets and have instead stuck with the traditional "*sari-sari* stores" because they sell in "*tingi*" or small packages and on "*lista*" or store credit, Snook said.

To cope with rising prices, Class E households scrimp on nonessential items such as snacks, spreads and sauces, and even everyday items such as cooking oil and milk powder.

"Cooking oil consumers are trading down to cheaper unbranded products resulting in a 6-percent price drop. Class E households are also using less of this product as oil is recycled or stretched for longer periods of time," Snook said.

She noted that the only everyday item that has not suffered from the peso-pinching households were powder laundry detergent.

"The strong functions of fabric conditioner and less scrubbing or time saving claims mean that prices and volumes can be maintained even across the lowest socioeconomic classes," Snook said.

The TNS Worldpanel survey bolsters other recent polls that showed the rise of poverty in the country.

Hunger

Social Weather Stations reported that the proportion of Filipino households experiencing hunger rose to 16.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2005, a new record high since SWS began conducting surveys on hunger in mid-1998.

"It has now been in double digits for seven consecutive quarters," SWS said.

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A woman 'scorned' . . .

From page A1

Dubbed the "Pinoy Cinderella Man," Pacquiao came home to a hero's welcome two weeks ago after a triumphant fight against three-time world champion Erik Morales of Mexico.

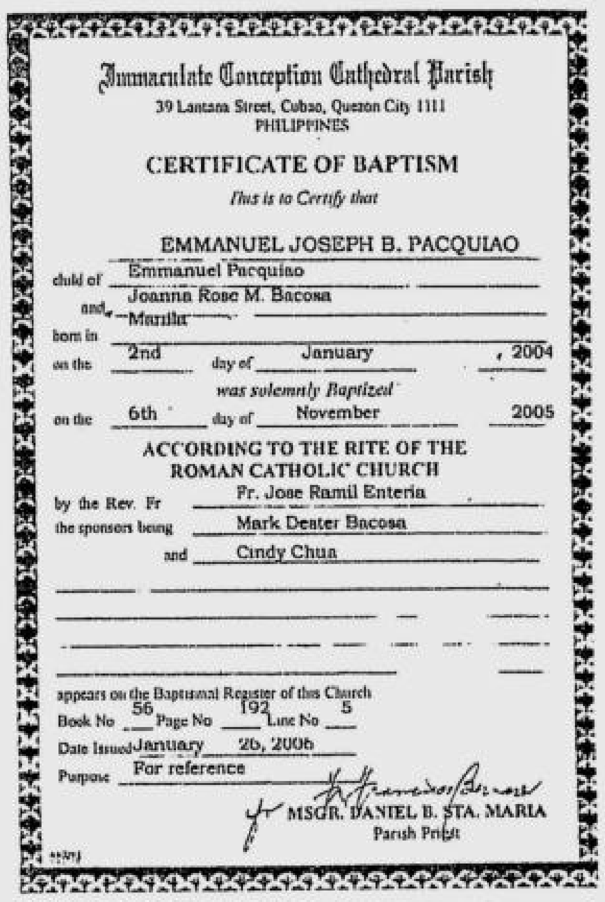
From a poor "panadero" [bakery worker—a bakery worker—Pacquiao is now a multimillionaire and an inspiration to Filipinos dreaming of the good life.

Father's name

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Bacosa said the child was born on Jan. 2, 2004, baptized in a Quezon City church and given Pacquiao's name. She showed Church and legal documents as well as their photos during happier times to bolster her claim.

The 2-year-old child romped in the room in a building on Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City where the interview was held.

He is a jolly, fair-complexioned boy, his fists visibly firm and big. When shown a picture of Pacquiao, he shouted in glee: "Manny! Manny!"



Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish
39 Lantana Street, Cubao, Quezon City 1111
PHILIPPINES

CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM

This is to Certify that

EMMANUEL JOSEPH B. PACQUIAO
child of Emmanuel Pacquiao
and Joanna Rose M. Bacosa
born in Manila
on the 2nd day of January, 2004
was solemnly Baptized
on the 6th day of November 2005
ACCORDING TO THE RITE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
by the Rev. Fr Fr. Jose Ramil Enteria
the sponsors being Mark Dexter Bacosa
and Cindy Chua

appears on the Baptismal Register of this Church
Book No 56 Page No 192 Line No 5
Date Issued January 26, 2006
Purpose For reference

MSGR. DANIEL B. STA. MARIA
Parish Priest

PROOF presented to the INQUIRER of the existence of a child sired by the People's Champ: Baptismal certificate issued by the Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish in Cubao, Quezon City.

Where it all began

Her child, Bacosa said, was a product of two people in love that began at the billiard hall and videoke bar of Pan Pacific Hotel in Malate, Manila. Pacquiao was the billiard center's frequent guest and player. She was its billiard "spotter" and waitress.

Bacosa and Pacquio first met there in February 2003.

Initially, the Palawan lass didn't know he was Pacquiao, the boxing star. She had no interest in sports, she said. He was there almost every night, but what she noticed was that Pacquiao was calling her by her first name. The other male customers were simply calling her "Miss."

He was sweet

"He was so nice and sweet. And he was paying me more attention than the rest," Bacosa recalled.

Pacquiao first invited her on a date in April 2003. She was about to wrap up her day's work at 3 a.m. "Because I had grown fond of him, I didn't think twice in joining him."

They drove to a hotel in Pasay City, she said. In no time, Pacquiao and Joanna took a room and stayed there for hours. Before leaving, Pacquiao tried to give her money, but she turned it down, telling him she was not a sex worker.

She was with him because she was in love with him, Bacosa said. She was fully aware, she said, that he was a married man and had two kids by his legal wife.

And came often ...

After the first date, Pacquiao went to the billiard hall more often, and was sweeter to her than he had ever been.

They went out and checked in at the same hotel two more times, each time longer than the first.

On both occasions, Pacquiao offered her some cash, but Bacosa said she turned it down for the same reason: She was with him because of love, not money.

Paquiao once called her, saying he couldn't see her because he was out of town preparing for a big fight. She was a little bit depressed, she said. It was April 29, her 22nd birthday. In less than an hour, he showed up at the billiard hall, saying he only wanted to pull a surprise.

In May 2003, Bacosa learned she was pregnant. When she broke the news to him, Pacquiao appeared jubilant. It was as if he were a first-time father, she said.

He later asked her to stop working and to move to another apartment to keep away from intrigue. She agreed.

In November 2003, he gave her P300,000 as a Christmas gift. This time, she accepted it because she needed to pay her hospitals bills. In January 2004, she gave birth to the boy.

Happy at news of a boy

Told of his son, Pacquiao seemed happy. He saw the boy three weeks later. But soon, the visits came few and far between.

In November 2005, Joanna said she got a call from Pacquiao asking her to see him in Cebu. Mother and son's tickets were provided by Pacquiao's friend, Wakee Salud.

There, at a Cebu hotel, father and son met again after so many months. He was visibly pleased that he allowed someone to take their pictures together.

After the meeting, Pacquiao gave Bacosa P3,000 for the boy. Little did she know that it was to be the last time she would see him.

She kept on calling him. She sent him text messages, pleading for support for the boy. "I will surprise you," she was told. But until she met with lawyer Victor Rodriguez last week, the surprise never came.

She instead got calls from Pacquiao's wife, Jinkee, and some of his friends who tried to prevent her from seeking legal counsel.

Now a wayward truck

On Jan. 31, she was surprised to get a call from Pacquiao himself. But it was no longer the man she knew, she said.

Shouting, he reportedly told her: "What are you doing?" She replied: "Why, what am I doing?"

But Pacquiao had the momentum of a wayward truck.

"If you have a problem, why don't you just talk to me?" Pacquiao yelled at her. "Why do you have to talk to somebody else? What do you want? Financial support? I have helped other people, why do you think I shouldn't help you. Do you want me to have that boy kidnapped so there wouldn't be evidence? Tell your lawyer to shut up or I will sew his mouth."

Bacosa said she had become so afraid of Pacquiao that she didn't want anyone to know where she was staying now.

She said she was fully aware that she might be accused of simply wanting to milk Pacquiao now that he is a multimillionaire.

Love is lost

Under the Family Code, she said, if a woman wins a case, only the child gets support. She wouldn't get anything unless Pacquiao agreed to it.

Part of any settlement she gets when the case is resolved will go to a trust fund, she said. The boy can only use it when he turns 21.

To those who criticized her, Bacosa said she would like to say that telling one's sad story was not an easy thing to do. She is telling hers now, she said, to illustrate that it was love that took place between them.

"I loved him then. Today, I love him not," she said.

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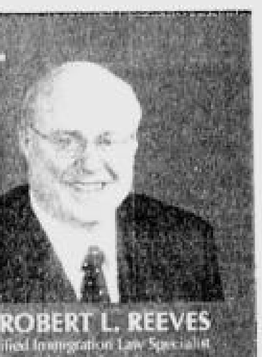

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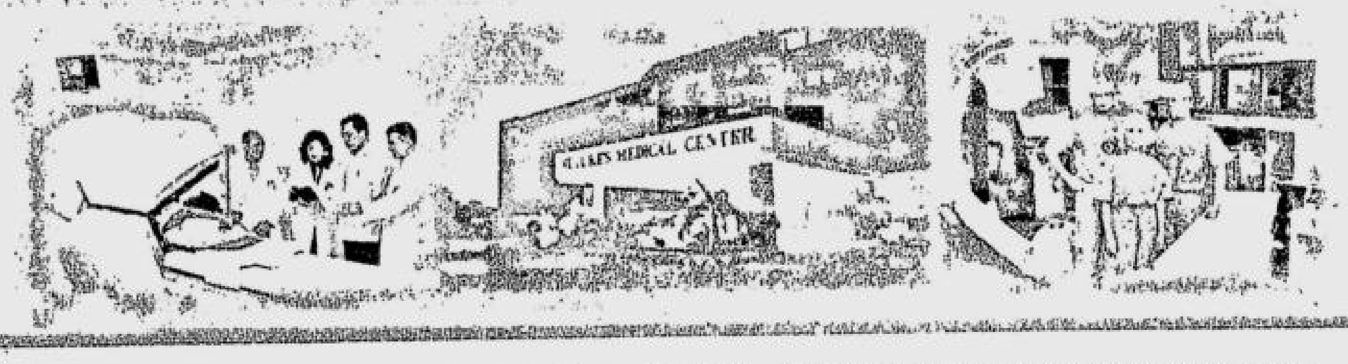

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Supreme Court
Halls of Justice – Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court, through the Halls of Justice – Bids and Awards Committee, invites security and janitorial services providers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of JANITORIAL and SECURITY SERVICES for the period 01 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, for the Halls of Justice at:

CLUSTER I
(ILOCOS/CAR)

1	AGOO, LA UNION	16	ALAMINOS, PANGASINAN
2	ASINGAN, PANGASINAN	17	BAGUIO CITY
3	BANGUED, ABRA	18	BANGUI, ILOCOS NORTE
4	BATAC, ILOCOS NORTE	19	BAUANG, LA UNION
5	BONTOC, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE	20	BURGOS, PANGASINAN
6	CANDON, ILOCOS SUR	21	DAGUPAN, PANGASINAN
7	DINGRAS, ILOCOS NORTE	22	ESPIRITU, ILOCOS NORTE
8	LAOAG, ILOCOS NORTE	23	LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET
9	LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN	24	NARVACAN, ILOCOS SUR
10	PAOAY, ILOCOS NORTE	25	ROSALES, PANGASINAN
11	SAN CARLOS, PANGASINAN	26	SAN FABIAN, PANGASINAN
12	SAN FERNANDO CITY	27	SAN JACINTO, PANGASINAN
13	TAYUG, PANGASINAN	28	UMINGAN, PANGASINAN
14	URDANETA, PANGASINAN	29	VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR
15	VILLASIS, PANGASINAN	30	VINTAR, ILOCOS NORTE

CLUSTER II
(CAGAYAN VALLEY/CAR)

1	ANGADANAN, ISABELA	10	APARRI, CAGAYAN
2	BALLESTEROS, CAGAYAN	11	BASCO, BATANES
3	CABAGAN, ISABELA	12	CABARROQUIS, QUIRINO
4	DIFFUN, QUIRINO	13	GATTARAN, CAGAYAN
5	ILAGAN, ISABELA	14	LUNA, APAYAO
6	MADELLA, QUIRINO	15	PIAT, CAGAYAN
7	SANTIAGO CITY, ISABELA	16	STA. TERESITA, CAGAYAN
8	TABUK, KALINGA	17	TUAO, CAGAYAN
9	TUGUEGARAO, CAGAYAN		

CLUSTER IV
(SOUTHERN TAGALOG)

1	ALITAGTAG, BATANGAS	21	BACOOR, CAVITE
2	BALAYAN, BATANGAS	22	BALER, AURORA
3	BATANGAS CITY	23	BINANGONAN, RIZAL
4	BIÑAN, LAGUNA	24	BOAC, MARINDUQUE
5	BUENAVISTA, MARINDUQUE	25	CAJIDIOCAN, ROMBLON
6	CALAMBA, LAGUNA	26	CALAUAG, QUEZON
7	CAVITE CITY	27	CORCUERA, ROMBLON
8	GASAN, MARINDUQUE	28	GUMACA, QUEZON
9	IMUS, CAVITE	29	INFANTA, QUEZON
10	LIPA CITY, BATANGAS	30	LOOC, ROMBLON
11	LOPEZ, QUEZON	31	LUCENA CITY, QUEZON
12	MORONG, RIZAL	32	NAIC, CAVITE
13	NASUGBU, BATANGAS	33	ODIONGAN, ROMBLON
14	PINAMALAYAN, ORIENTAL MINDORO	34	PUERTO PRINCESA CITY
15	ROMBLON, ROMBLON	35	ROSARIO, BATANGAS
16	ROXAS, ORIENTAL MINDORO	36	SAN AGUSTIN, ROMBLON
17	SAN ANDRES, ROMBLON	37	SAN MATEO, RIZAL
18	SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA	38	SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA
19	TAAL, BATANGAS	39	TANAUAN, BATANGAS
20	TORRIJOS, MARINDUQUE	40	TUY, BATANGAS

CLUSTER V
(BICOL)

1	AROROY, MASBATE	10	BAAO, CAMARINES SUR
2	BALATAN, CAMARINES SUR	11	DAET, CAMARINES NORTE
3	GUBAT, SORSOGON	12	IRIGA CITY
4	LEGAZPI CITY	13	LIBMANAN, CAMARINES SUR
5	LIGAO, ALBAY	14	MANDAON, MASBATE
6	NABUA, CAMARINES SUR	15	NAGA CITY
7	SAN JOSE, CAMARINES SUR	16	SORSOGON SORSOGON
8	TABACO, ALBAY	17	TIGAON, CAMARINES SUR
9	VIRAC, CATANDUANES		

CLUSTER VII
(CENTRAL VISAYAS)

1	ARGAO, CEBU	8	BAIS CITY, NEGROS ORIENTAL
2	CARMEN, BOHOL	9	CEBU CITY
3	DUMAGUETE CITY	10	GUIHULNGAN, NEGROS ORIENTAL
4	GUINDULMAN, BOHOL	11	LAPU-LAPU CITY
5	LOAY, BOHOL	12	MANDAUE CITY
6	TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL	13	TALIBON, BOHOL
7	TUBIGON, BOHOL		

CLUSTER VIII
(EASTERN VISAYAS)

1	ABUYOG, LEYTE	12	ALLEN, N. SAMAR
2	BARUGO, LEYTE	13	BAYBAY, LEYTE
3	BORONGAN, E. SAMAR	14	BARAUEN, LEYTE
4	CALBAYOG CITY, W. SAMAR	15	CALUBIAN, LEYTE
5	CARIGARA, LEYTE	16	CATBALOGAN, W. SAMAR
6	CATARMAN, N. SAMAR	17	LA PAZ, LEYTE
7	LAOANG, N. SAMAR	18	MAASIN, S. LEYTE
8	ORAS, E. SAMAR	19	ORMOC CITY
9	PALOMPON, LEYTE	20	SAN JUAN, S. LEYTE
10	SOGOD, S. LEYTE	21	TACLOBAN CITY
11	TARANGNAN, W. SAMAR	22	VILLABA, LEYTE

CLUSTER IX
(WESTERN MINDANAO)
(JANITORIAL SERVICES ONLY)

1	AURORA, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	6	DIPOLOG CITY
2	ISABELA, BASILAN	7	JOLO, SULU
3	MOLAVE, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	8	PAGADIAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
4	SINDANGAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE	9	TAMBULIG, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
5	ZAMBOANGA CITY		

CLUSTER XI
(SOUTHERN MINDANAO)

1	ALABEL, SARANGANI	11	BANSALAN, DAVAO DEL SUR
2	BAROBO, SURIGAO DEL SUR	12	BISLIG, SURIGAO DEL SUR
3	CANTILLAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR	13	DAVAO CITY, DAVAO DEL SUR
4	GENERAL SANTOS CITY	14	HINATUAN, SURIGAO DEL SUR
5	KORONADAL, S. COTABATO	15	LIANGA, SURIGAO DEL SUR
6	MALITA, DAVAO DEL SUR	16	MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL
7	PANABO, DAVAO DEL NORTE	17	STO. TOMAS, DAVAO DEL NORTE
8	TAGO, SURIGAO DEL SUR	18	TAGUM CITY, DAVAO DEL NORTE
9	TANDAG, SURIGAO DEL SUR	19	POLOMOLOK, S. COTABATO
10	SURALLAH, S. COTABATO	20	COTABATO CITY

CLUSTER XII
(CENTRAL MINDANAO)
(Security Services Only)

1	ILIGAN CITY	4	KIDAPAWAN, NORTH COTABATO
2	ISULAN, SULTAN KUDARAT	5	MARAWI CITY
3	KABACAN, N. COTABATO		

CLUSTER XIII (NCR)

1	CALOOCAN CITY	6	MALABON
2	MANDALUYONG CITY	7	MANILA
3	MARIKINA CITY	8	PASAY CITY
4	PASIG CITY		
5	QUEZON CITY		

The approved budget for the Clusters are as follows:

CLUSTER	JANITORIAL	SECURITY
I	P 7,834,341.60	P 19,475,021.76
II	2,333,919.00	8,631,292.56
IV	8,313,603.28	25,526,592.76
V	5,511,777.00	12,467,160.60
VII	4,667,145.84	8,808,502.28
VIII	3,116,273.76	10,018,199.52
IX	3,086,062.92	-0-
XI	3,899,779.20	11,929,012.56
XII	-0-	4,096,950.60
XIII	11,593,360.80	23,743,400.88
TOTAL	P 50,356,163.40	P 124,896,133.52

This is to be charged against the budget released for the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for the Halls of Justice, Supreme Court.

Janitorial and Security services shall be bid out separately. Those bidding for more than one cluster shall file separate bids for each cluster.

All particulars relative to this bidding shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Eligibility requirements and the bid forms shall be issued from 10 to 20 February 2006. Said documents will be furnished the prospective bidders after payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 for each Cluster and services they intend to bid for.

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

The pre-bid conference for both Janitorial and Security Services shall be on 21 February 2006, 9.00 a.m. at the Old Session Hall, Third Floor, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila.

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS and OPENING OF BIDS**

Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids for Janitorial Services shall be on 7 March 2006, 9.00 a.m. at the Old Session Hall of the Supreme Court.

Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bids for Security Services shall be on 8 March 2006, 9.00 a.m. also at the Old Session Hall of the Supreme Court.

Only the bids of eligible bidders will be opened. The opening of bids shall be done in the presence of the bidders immediately after the checking of the eligibility requirements.

The awards shall be made not only on the basis of the bid price but also on the sufficiency of the supplies, equipment and administrative supervision to be provided.

The Supreme Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers which it may consider to be disadvantageous and not beneficial to the Court or waive any defect or informality therein.

8 February 2006

(Sgd.) DCA CHRISTOPHER O. LOCK
Chairman, HOJ-BAC

(PDI–February 8, 2006)

DOJ lets Regine off taxman's hook

By Armand N. Nocum

SHEER TECHNICALITY.

This was how songbird Regine Velasquez avoided becoming a jailbird in the multi-million tax evasion case the BIR filed against her last year.

In a nine-page decision released to the media yesterday, Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutors said the failure of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to send notice to Velasquez before filing the case in April effectively cleared her of the offense.

"In sum, complainant's (BIR) allegation that respondent (Velasquez) willfully attempted to evade or defeat payment of tax and/or failure to supply correct and accurate information has no basis ... thus, necessitating the dismissal of the present complaint," the DOJ said.

In a decision penned by state prosecutor Roseanne Elepaño-Balauag and assistant chief state prosecutor Miguel Gudio, the DOJ said the "notice to (the) taxpayers came too late to be apt."

The prosecutors stressed that any shortcut in the legal procedure "cannot be countenanced."

"Be it noted that the notice and demand are requirements of due process to which every taxpayer is entitled," the DOJ said of the need for the BIR to notify the respondent of her tax liabilities to give her a chance to explain and submit evidence in her favor prior to filing of the case.

In its complaint, the BIR said Velasquez did not pay taxes from her earnings as product endorser of Nestlé-Philippines, among others in 2003.

Velasquez is also the endorser of the Department of Tourism and Smart Communications' tourism promotion program, KFC, Wendy's, Digitel, Lux, Smart and Nokia.

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Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Legazpi

Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Baguio, Dagupan, Urdaneta
Tarlac, Cabanatuan, Pampanga, Isabela, Cagayan, Palawan

Tacloban, Mandaue, Bacolod, Iloilo
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MEDICAL EXPERTS ARE NOW ZEROING in on the fat cells as a major culprit in the development of diabetes and heart disease.

According to Dr. Mary Ann Lim-Abrahan, president of the Philippine Lipid Society, most Type 2 diabetic (T2DM) patients are overweight or obese and have too much fat in the abdomen. They have excessive fat deposits in muscle, liver and intra-abdominal fats, and have large abnormally functioning fat cells or adipocytes whose capacity to store triglycerides and other types of fats from the diet is compromised.

This will be the subject of Abrahan's plenary lecture during the three-day 11th joint annual convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and Philippine Lipid Society at the Edsa Shangri La Hotel starting today.

Abrahan will present latest scientific data indicating that intra-abdominal or visceral fat could be the underlying basis for diabetes, cholesterol problems and cardiovascular disease.

More than 1,500 doctors nationwide are expected to attend the joint PSH-PLS convention which will present clinical updates in the treatment of hypertension, cholesterol problems, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in general.

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CHIEF JUSTICE Artemio Panganiban (right) with Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben Reyes. PDI FILE

Chief justice rebukes CA chief on car

By Armand N. Nocum

CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PANGANIBAN has taken Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben T. Reyes to task for polishing his image at the expense of the highest magistrate of the land and his fellow appellate justices.

The rebuke came in the form of a letter Panganiban wrote Reyes after the INQUIRER ran an article last Sunday quoting the appellate judge as saying he had decided to forego buying a new car to save money for employee benefits even after the Chief Justice had tried to prevail on him to replace his five-year-old car with one befitting his high position.

"It's not for you, but for the dignity of the office," Reyes quoted Panganiban as having told him.

"You know that the statements attributed to you in the foregoing report are false," Panganiban said in his Feb. 6 letter to Reyes. "It was you who asked me to provide you a new car."

The Chief Justice demanded that Reyes, who was promoted to head the Court of Appeals last December, apologize immediately to his colleagues and "make the proper corrections in the PDI report."

'False statement'

"The false statements attributed to you have caused undue public embarrassment and ridicule to the Chief Justice and possibly to your colleagues in the Court of Appeals," Panganiban said.

In an earlier interview, Reyes said that instead of using a P2.5-million allotment to buy a Toyota Camry and a Starex van for his office, he decided to put the money into a kitty to provide court employees with "fringe benefits" or emergency economic assistance.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Reyes said that Panganiban did not ask him to trade in his car for a more expensive model.

"What he told me was I can buy a new one but if I do so, there would not be enough savings left from the CA budget to cover fully the economic assistance given to our employees," Reyes wrote. "Thus, I withdrew the earlier request for the purchase of a vehicle 'to give priority to the grant of emergency economic assistance to court officials and workforce,' under the initiative of the new Chief Justice."

In his letter, Panganiban reminded Reyes it was the latter who had written the Chief Justice last Jan. 9 asking whether he could "realign the savings of the Court of Appeals to enable (him) to buy a new car."

Panganiban wrote he recalled telling Reyes that 26,000 judiciary employees nationwide were to be given emergency economic assistance in cash to be taken from the "savings of the various courts."

He said that if Reyes pursued his plan to get a new car, the money would have been taken from the CA's savings and there would not be enough left to cover fully the emergency assistance to CA employees.

Rebs ambush pursuing troops

COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS AMBUSHED A truckload of Army troops taking part in a manhunt for rebels who briefly held a town mayor, sparking a clash that killed one rebel and wounded five soldiers, a military official said yesterday.

An undetermined number of New People's Army guerrillas opened fire on the Army truck Monday near Lingig town in Surigao del Sur, said Lt. Col. Francisco Simbajon, spokesman for the Army's 4th Infantry Division.

The Army troops were en route to reinforce soldiers hunting a group of guerrillas who briefly held Lingig Mayor Jimmy Luna on Sunday to gain entry to the town's police station, where they seized a cache of assault rifles and grenades, Simbajon said.

After the raid, the rebels, dressed in Army uniforms, fled toward the hinterland in Surigao del Sur aboard a number of vehicles, including one taken from Luna, police said.

The rebels had disarmed Luna's bodyguards but did not harm them or the policemen at the station, officials said.

National police chief Arturo Lomibao relieved the provincial police chief and the entire police force of Lingig, which has about a dozen officers, for failing to put up an adequate defense against rebel attacks, police spokesman Leopoldo Bataoil said. *AP*

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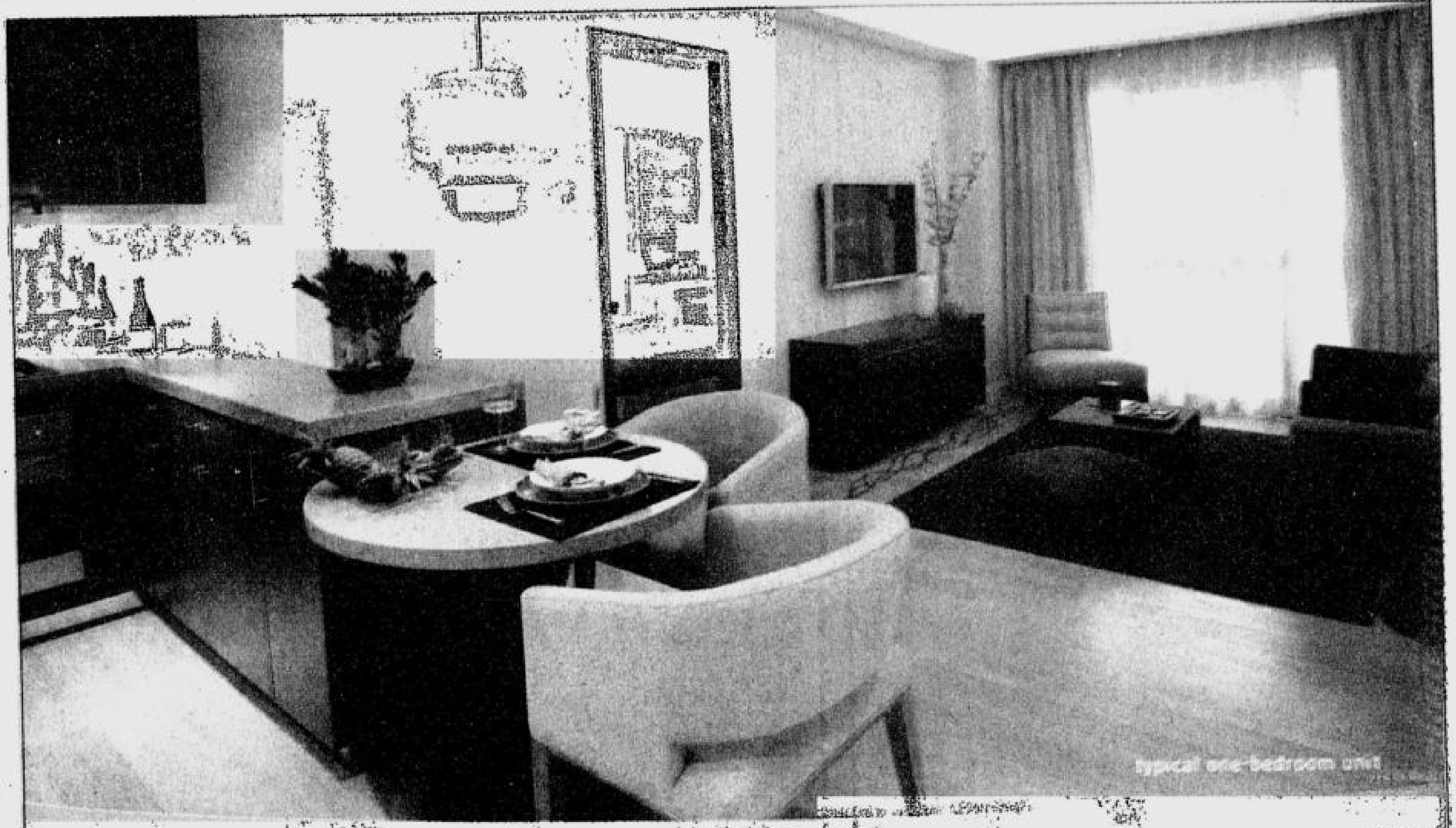

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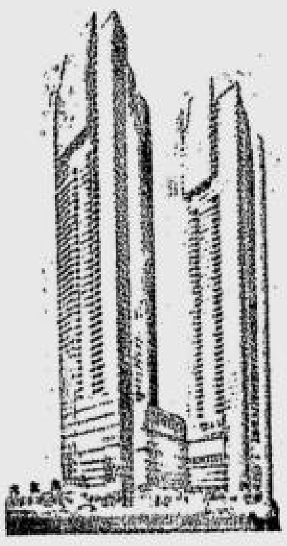

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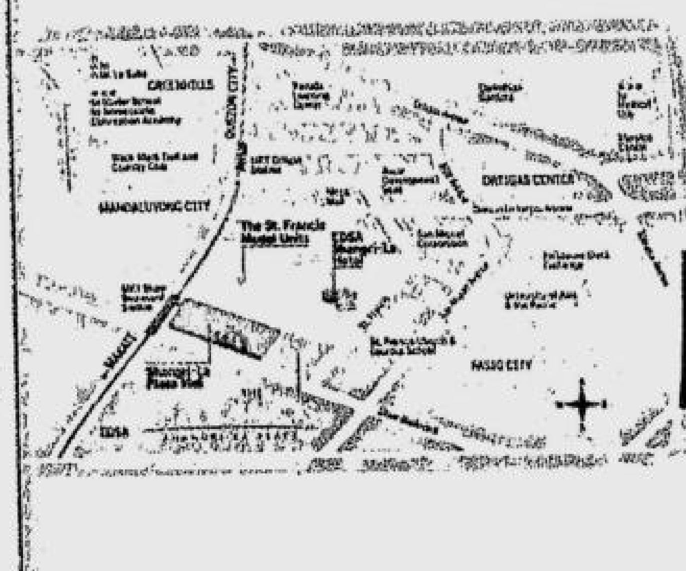

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Ma'am GMA teaches kids English, geography

From page A1

City public school.

Ms Arroyo asked the students at the Andres Bonifacio Integrated School to speak straight English, as she read to them a story about how a boy dreamed of riding a magic mat and going to equally magical places.

Before reading "Magic Mat," she peppered the 7-year-olds with questions about geography and their comprehension of the English language.

Holding a script, Ms Arroyo made sure that she had props to make her points clear.

She first asked for a world map and settled initially for a globe that her aides were able to produce.

Asia's biggest

Using the globe and later a world map, the President asked the children to mark with yellow "post it" notes countries that belonged either to the East or the West—a task the children did not find too difficult.

The children responded enthusiastically when she asked them what the "biggest piece of land" in the world was.

One shot back with the answer "China," but the President said it was "Asia," pointing to the globe.

Ms Arroyo, who sometimes had to put on her eyeglasses, repeatedly said "excellent" and "great" when the children gave the right answers.

Asleep

She went to the blackboard and wrote down some words such as "dreams" and "asleep," and then asked the children which of the words were answers to her questions.

After this exercise, Ms Arroyo proceeded to read the book authored by Virgilio Almario about how a boy named Fidel dreamed one night of riding a magic mat.

Through the magic mat, she related to the children how Fidel was able to travel to magical places in the East and the West.

Heaven

After the story, she asked questions to find out whether the children had understood the story.

PUPILS' PET: Grade 1 students of the Andres Bonifacio Integrated School in Mandaluyong City are treated to story-telling by President Arroyo who, through the Dept. of Health's program of Bright Minds Read, encourages reading. She is also promoting English as the medium of instruction. EDWIN BACASMAS

"So was the mat really magical?" the President asked.

"No," said the boy named Heaven, who had been giving most of the right answers to her questions.

"(Because it's a) dream," he said, prompting the President to say "very good, Heaven."

Thanking the children for their time, Ms Arroyo said she wanted to underscore the "importance of having instructional materials" in educating schoolchildren.

She also announced that the Department of Budget and Management would release P500 million for textbooks and instructional materials. "These materials are needed so that it would be easier to teach students," she said.

Accompanying Ms Arroyo were her chief of staff Michael Defensor, Mandaluyong City Mayor Neptali Gonzales II and Mandaluyong Rep. Benjamin Abalos Jr.

Defensor said the P500 million was part of the P1.95 billion that the Department of Education had allotted in its budget for this year for textbooks and instructional materials.

Miss teaching?

Defensor said Ms Arroyo was supposed to stay only long enough to read the children a story but she told him she wanted to see how competent the children were in the English language.

The class that Ms Arroyo spent time with was made up of 52 children, 44 of whom were scholars of Petron Corp.

"The President really took her time," Defensor said in a phone interview. "Maybe she missed teaching."

Ms Arroyo once taught economics at Ateneo de Manila University.

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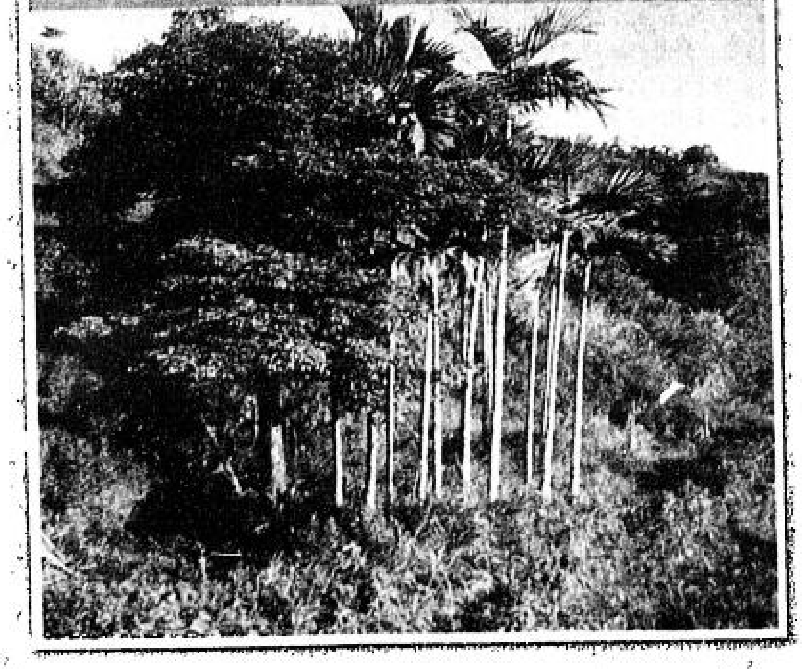

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RP doc's proposal wins, benefits kids …

From page A1

ciones said.

"It's important to diagnose [the disease] at the earliest stage," Dr. Victoria Abesamis, PSPO president, said at the press conference. "If not, treatment would be more difficult, costly and with attendant complications."

1st, 2nd stages

The first stage involves the creation of multidisciplinary teams that will manage cases in their respective areas. The team includes an oncologist, pediatric surgeon, pathologist and nurses.

Even with only 20 members, the PSPO is fairly present in major areas in the country. They are deployed in northern Luzon (Mt. Province, La Union, Cagayan Valley), Central Luzon (Angeles City, Subic, Bulacan), Metro Manila, southern Luzon, Eastern and Western Visayas, and Davao.

In the second stage, "front-line" doctors will be trained in the early detection of cancer among children.

"Sometimes, a child is anemic and the doctor would think it's just iron deficiency, not knowing that it's already an early sign of leukemia," Lecciones said. "Sometimes, a child keeps bumping into things because he can't see properly. It may be a sign of retinoblastoma."

A partner group, "Project: Brave Kids," will help disseminate information about childhood cancers while generating support among parents and communities.

Fil-Am sex offender …

From page A1

alien in the Philippines.

An intelligence build-up on Dominguez's activities in the Philippines was initially undertaken by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation, who in turn forwarded the information to the state department.

Naktaf and PCTC agents had been tailing Dominguez since 9 p.m. on Sunday before arresting him on Monday morning, Carlos said.

Corrections

IN THE JAN. 31 ISSUE, Nestor Torre's column, Viewfinder, in the Entertainment section on Page A2-1—"Exceptional H'wood films coming up"—erroneously stated that in the movie "Proof," the world of the lead character played by Gwyneth Paltrow was "turned upside down with the arrival of her sister (Claire Danes)." Claire is the name of the lead character's sister, a role played by Hope Davis—not Claire Danes.

* * *

IN LATER EDITIONS of the Feb. 5 issue, a front-page story—"Wowowee: Entertainment, hope for the poor"—misspelled the name of the head of ABS-CBN Foundation. The correct name of the foundation's head is Tina Monzon—not Monson—Palma.

* * *

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PCGG chief dares 4 senators to debate, but not in Senate

By Alcuin Papa

AN UNREPENTANT CAMILO SABIO, THE chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, renewed his word war with four senators yesterday, challenging them to a debate on the issue of whether PCGG commissioners were using the various coco levy-fund companies as a "milking cow."

But Sabio said he would not debate Senators Joker Arroyo, Edgardo Angara, Juan Ponce Enrile and Senate President Franklin Drilon on the Senate floor where the rules are in their favor.

"I want something [where] we would be under the Constitution and the law, [where] we would be equal. We can have a civilized and friendly debate. They could speak from the Senate. I will speak from this room in the PCGG," Sabio told a press conference yesterday.

Based on SC rulings

He said the debate should be based on Supreme Court decisions, not "political statements that don't have any basis."

The new PCGG chief became the target of the four senators' ire when he refused to answer questions concerning details about a reported compromise deal with businessman Eduardo Cojuangco on the P130-billion sequestered shares in San Miguel Corp.

For his defiance, the Senate finance committee under Enrile slashed the proposed PCGG budget for 2006 from P67 million to P1.

Sabio cited a provision in President Aquino's Executive Order No. 1 barring any PCGG official from testifying in a legislative inquiry.

He also argued that Drilon, Enrile and Angara were defendants in some coco levy fund cases and answering their questions would prejudice the PCGG's mandate to go after ill-gotten wealth.

In yesterday's press conference, Sabio chose to focus on the senators' accusations that the PCGG was mismanaging the companies it had sequestered and that these were being used by agency officials for personal gain.

He said he and the senators should debate on whether there was a conflict of interest and whether there was corruption in the coco levy fund companies, such as the Coconut Industry Investment Fund.

He also took offense at the insinuation that he was taking advantage of his position to accumulate wealth.

"Although I have occupied major sensitive positions in government...you can go to my house and even the stairs have many holes. My wife is afraid my grandchildren might fall into these holes.

"Until now I do not own a house. It appears to many people that we are wallowing in wealth. People think we are corrupt. That is damaging to my office, to me and of course the President. It is not correct to say that there is a conflict of interest. The President knows I am honest. I am not a saint like a lot of people, but I am not involved in corruption," he said.

SABIO

He pointed out that instead of establishing a lucrative law practice like some senators, he lawyered for farmers for a pittance.

"I worked with the farmers, with the Federation of Free Farmers, as a volunteer being paid per appearance for P5, P10 or even just fruits and vegetables," Sabio said.

He said he held positions in three coco levy companies—the United Coconut Planters Bank, the CIIF Oil Mills Group and Cocofinance—and received per diems given by law.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Protests over cartoons spread to Asia

JAKARTA—DANISH CITIZENS WERE ADVISED to leave Indonesia on Tuesday as angry protests over the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad spread across Asia, with some rioters clashing with police.

Thousands took to the streets in Pakistan, some shouting "Hang the man who insulted the prophet," and hundreds of Muslims turned out in the predominantly Christian Philippines.

In the second straight day of violence in Afghanistan, rioters clashed with police and Nato peacekeepers during demonstrations against the publication of cartoons in mostly Western press.

Norwegian troops used tear gas to disperse stone-throwing protesters outside their base in Maymana, a city in the northwest, said Squadron Leader Annie Gibson-Sexton, a spokesperson for the International Security Assistance Force.

Elsewhere in the region, Australians were warned by their government to use caution if traveling the Middle East and New Zealanders were told the cartoons had "put our people offshore at risk." Some media in both countries have published the images.

Muslim anger at the publication of the cartoons has been directed at Denmark, where they were first printed in a newspaper in September. Danish missions have been attacked and boycotts of Danish products launched in many Muslim countries. The cartoons have since been reprinted by media outlets in other European countries, the United States and elsewhere.

Malaysia's prime minister slammed the foreign media and a local daily on Tuesday for running the drawings, one of which shows Muhammad wearing a turban shaped as a bomb. Another portrays him holding a sword, his eyes covered by a black rectangle.

Danish citizens in Indonesia were advised to leave the world's most populous Muslim nation, where rock-throwing demonstrators have attacked the country's diplomatic missions on a near daily basis.

Rallies were held in at least four cities across the sprawling country on Tuesday.

"The Foreign Ministry recommends that Danes already in Indonesia leave and that those interested in coming postpone their plans," said Niels Erik Anderson, the country's ambassador to Indonesia.

More than 5,000 people rallied in Pakistan and hundreds of Muslims in the southern Philippines burned a Danish flag.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said his government had temporarily closed diplomatic missions in Palestinian territories—where it shares a building with the Danish mission.

He warned his citizens to be wary if traveling to the Middle East.

Japan expressed concern about mounting violence over the Muhammad caricatures and urged protesters not to further inflame tensions.

"We urge all parties to ease tensions and refrain from statements or actions that could aggravate the situation," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. *AP*

Anger boils over Egyptian ferry tragedy

SAFAGA, EGYPT—A MOB OF EGYPTIANS ransacked Monday the offices of the owners of a ferry that sank in the Red Sea as anger over the fate of relatives missing after one of the worst maritime disasters in living memory boiled over into violence.

Hopes of finding more survivors were fading fast four days after the 36-year-old ferry sank on a crossing from Saudi Arabia on Friday, amid growing controversy over the safety of the vessel, the actions of the crew and the slow start to the rescue operation.

According to the company that owned the doomed Al-Salam Boccaccio 98, 426 people have been pulled from the sea, leaving close to 1,000 dead or missing.

"Finally we've had good news, another 37 were found last night at 11 p.m. (2100 GMT)," said Khaled Helmi, head of operations at the Al-Salam Maritime Transport Company. "We should not lose all hope, the waters are not so cold." But doctors said they did not expect many more survivors to be found.

In Safaga, the doomed ship's destination in southeastern Egypt, an angry mob went on the rampage, ransacking Al-Salam offices and clashing with police, infuriated by the lack of information over the fate of their relatives.

Survivors and relatives have blamed Al-Salam for using a ship that did not comply with safety standards and accused the crew of ignoring a fire that broke out on board when there was still time to turn back to Saudi Arabia. Questions are also being asked in the Egyptian press and parliament about why the rescue and search operations started only seven hours after the ship sank.

The protestors ransacked the Safaga offices of a tour operator selling ferry tickets and broke into the offices of the shipping company in an adjacent building.

"Then they threw everything they could find out the window and set fire to the place," witness Mustafa Mahmud told AFP.

Several survivors have accused the ship's captain Omar Sayed of refusing to acknowledge the risk posed by the fire and charged that the two hours during the blaze raged would have given the ship enough time to return to shore.

Egyptian press reports alleged that one of the company's other ships was informed that the Al-Salam had encountered difficulties but did not respond.

But the ship's owners defended the record of the vessel and its crew, saying they met all international standards.

Official sources said 190 bodies have been recovered so far. An AFP reporter in the resort of Hurghada, further north, said rows broke out at the hospital between families claiming the same bodies, often bloated beyond recognition.

"It's normal there would be disputes about the identity because after some time in the sea, it's like the face has come off," a hospital official said.

He said the unidentified and disputed bodies were being sent to the central morgue in Cairo for DNA testing.

Police at barricades outside Hurghada hospital held up photographs of the dead as medics read out the names of identified bodies that families can take away for burial. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Bush seeks $2.7-trillion budget

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush proposed on Monday to boost defense spending, slow Medicare's growth and cut a host of domestic programs in a $2.77 trillion budget that sought to soothe Republican frustrations over high deficits. A prominent Republican, Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, said Bush's proposed funding cuts for health and education were "scandalous." Specter chairs a Senate panel that oversees spending on such programs. The Bush plan would cut discretionary programs outside national security by 0.5 percent. Bush wants to pare back or scrap 141 programs, with education, cancer research and community policing programs slated to take a hit. But Bush proposed a record $439.3 billion defense budget, up 4.8 percent from last year. On top of that, the White House will seek new financing for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. *Reuters*

Harper sworn in as Canada's new PM

OTTAWA—Conservative leader Stephen Harper was sworn in as Canada's 22nd prime minister Monday, vowing to clean up government while facing immediate opposition criticism of his inexperienced cabinet. Harper, one of Canada's youngest prime ministers at 46, and his ministers arrived for the ceremony in a Dodge Caravan instead of the usual limousine as part of an effort to show they are close to public concerns. With his wife, two young children, two brothers, mother and friends in attendance, Harper swore his allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II, Canada's head of state, before setting out his plans. He takes over from Paul Martin. Harper promised to lower consumption taxes, legislation to curb gun violence in major cities and better childcare and healthcare. *AFP*

13 dead in Afghan bomb blast

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—A powerful bomb exploded outside the police headquarters in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Tuesday, killing 13 people and wounding 11 others, a doctor said. The interior ministry confirmed the blast was caused by a bomb. A destroyed motorbike was at the scene of the blast, which was splattered in blood, an AFP correspondent said. "Thirteen people, most of them police, have died in the bomb blast in Kandahar City and were taken to the Kandahar public health hospital," a doctor on duty, who gave his name as Mamoon, told AFP. "Eleven are wounded, most of them in critical condition," he said. *AFP*

Japanese princess pregnant

TOKYO—Japan's Princess Kiko, the wife of the emperor's second eldest son, is pregnant, national broadcaster NHK reported Tuesday, raising the possibility that the country's royal family could produce its first male heir in 40 years. The Imperial Household Agency refused to immediately comment, but the report triggered a round of applause by lawmakers at a televised Parliamentary committee meeting attended by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. Kiko, the wife of Prince Akishino, has two daughters. Crown Prince Naruhito, first in line to the throne after his father Emperor Akihito, has had a lone daughter with his wife, Crown Princess Masako. *AP*

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(Head Office and Branches)
As of December 31, 2005

ASSETS	AMOUNT
Cash and Cash items	803.40
Due from Other Banks	3,531,171.92
Trading Account Securities (Net)	41,331,628.45
Equity Investments (Net)	1,352,832.39
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures (Net)	81,224,637.63
Other Assets (Net)	
b. Others	227,244,149.31
TOTAL ASSETS	354,685,223.10
LIABILITIES	
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	
Other Liabilities	8,976,896.35
TOTAL LIABILITIES	8,976,896.35
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	323,306,400.00
Surplus	22,401,926.75
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	345,708,326.75
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	354,685,223.10

PHILIPPINE DEPOSITORY & TRUST CORP.
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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of December 31, 2005

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	AMOUNT
Items held for safekeeping/Custodianship	
Government Bonds & Other Securities Held for Custodianship	47,059,967.03
Private Securities/Commercial Papers Held for Custodianship	25,000,000.00

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI) S. S.

We, Miguel C. Andaya and Roy B. Lacsamana of the above-mentioned corporation do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Miguel C. Andaya
Managing Director-Finance & Operation
(Signature over Printed Name)

Roy B. Lacsamana
President & COO
(Signature over Printed Name)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this January 31, 2005 at Makati City affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificates No. 15811864 issued at Quezon City on January 29, 2005 and No. 18199574 issued at Makati City on February 28, 2005.

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PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
PO Box 2102 MCPO. Tel Nos. 893-6001 to 47 / 893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors, registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and classified, at least, as Category C & D, IAC Sub-Category- Small B for General Engineering or General Building, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

CONSTRUCTION OF CABLE TRAY SUPPORTS FOR THE AIRLINE, ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, AND INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROL SYSTEM OF THE NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL PROJECT - FLUID COLLECTION AND REINJECTION SYSTEM (NNGP - FCRS)

EDC 06-013

The Approved Budget is PhP 4,565,284.92 chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is 60 calendar days.

Application forms for eligibility and bid documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Francis T. Tolbas local 5179) starting February 8, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00).

Site inspection is on February 16, 2006, 10:00 A.M. at the Northern Negros Geothermal Project, Negros Occidental. For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held also on February 16, 2006, 1:30 P.M. at the Construction Division Stallhouse, Northern Negros Geothermal Project, Negros Occidental.

Sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of March 3, 2006 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC - EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Feb. 8 & 15, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5291 / 5279 / 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID / BID

The PNOC Energy Developmen[illegible] [illegible] ested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the fo[illegible]

	Approved Budget
[illegible] under FGK 40836	PHP 13,940,000.00
Various Shaker Parts under FDB 53484	PHP 4,250,000.00
Various Shaker Parts under FDB 53483	PHP 2,800,000.00
124 drums of Mud Defoamer under FGK 50531	PHP 2,952,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance upon payment of a non-refundable fee at the above address based on the following schedules

PR No.	Date of Issue	Cost per Document	Contact Person
FGK 40836	February 8, 2006	PHP 400.00	Mr. Harold T. Fontillas loc. 5291
FDB 53484	February 9, 2006	PHP 400.00	Ms. Elvisa J. Hufana loc. 5279
FDB 53483	February 9, 2006	PHP 400.00	Ms. Elvisa J. Hufana loc. 5279
FGK 50531	February 8, 2006	PHP 400.00	Ms. Ma. Cristina Lynn M. Mercado loc. 5282

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre bidding conference shall also be held on February 16, 2006 for FGK 40836 and FDB 53484 and on February 17, 2006 for FDB 53483 and FGK 50531, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department Wall Clock Time) of March 2, 2006 for FGK 40836 and FDB 53484, and March 3, 2006 for FDB 53483 and FGK 50531. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission / execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Feb. 8 & 15, 2006)

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For companies like yours which depend on their system to be able to fully operate, the slightest glitch can mean big monetary loss; we can't afford to be risk takers now, can we?

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Continuing payback

EDITORIAL

MICHAEL DEFENSOR'S APPOINTMENT AS THE President's chief of staff was just the first in a series of predictable Cabinet appointments. Over the past few days, Malacañang has disclosed appointments that had been methodically leaked to the media beforehand, probably to gauge the public's reaction to them. Among the new appointees are two members of the House of Representatives: Ronaldo Puno as secretary of interior and local government and Rolando Andaya as secretary of budget and management. A former Samar congressman, Eduardo Nachura, has been made chief presidential legal adviser. And Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes is being sent to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources while Budget Secretary Romulo Neri returns to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Almost immediately, the public and media reaction was, to put it mildly, underwhelming. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita sheepishly responded to public skepticism by remarking, "Nobody's perfect. The President is not King Solomon but she is trying to be Solomon. There will always be questions, but let's see how they perform first."

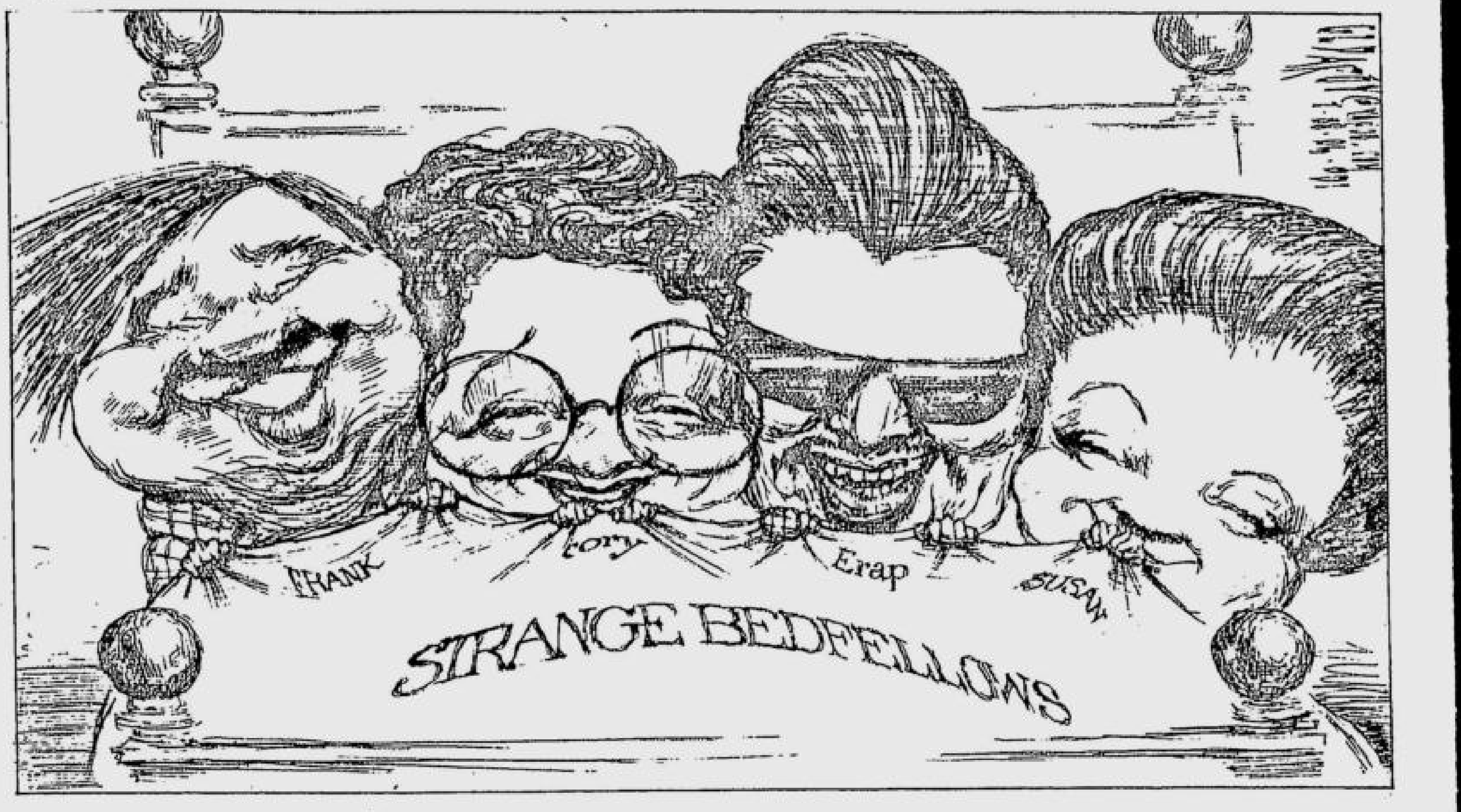
What can be made of these appointments? King Solomon, to figure out which of two women claiming to be the mother of an infant was the real one, ordered the baby sliced in half, and the real mother offered to give up her claim to save her child. President Macapagal-Arroyo, torn between giving good government to the country and ensuring she is surrounded by people primarily loyal to her and who have rendered useful service to her in the past, has chosen political payback over improved governance. There are compelling reasons that make this conclusion unavoidable.

In the case of Ronaldo Puno, he has been hounded by cases that remain unresolved. Regardless of his innocence or guilt—unproven, after all, as the cases remain untried and undecided—he also has a reputation for ruthless, mercenary service as a political operative that began with the Marcos administration and continues to the present one. Aside from his alleged expertise at electoral strategy (and supposedly, manipulation), he is also a fixture of the President's very own, personal pet party, Kampi. The nature of the portfolio he has been given, which gives him supervision over local governments and authority over the Philippine National Police—makes Puno a handy fixer, indeed, to have on hand. Particularly handy, it must be added, at a time of military unrest. When big pushes by local governments for a no-election scenario and a possible constitutional referendum are on the horizon, his skills should be invaluable, too. Being a survivor, Puno's reaction to the announcement of his appointment has been predictable: to hedge his bets, he has refused to resign from Congress until he is confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

As for Eduardo Nachura, he has been a "cabinetable" for some time, the Department of Education being his preferred option. Instead, he becomes the President's lawyer, at a time when a great deal of lawyering with regard not only to a possible revived impeachment (involving Nachura's colleagues in the House and the Liberal Party), but to various executive issuances questioned before the courts, is ahead.

And in terms of Rolando Andaya's appointment, the message being sent is clear: the bank is open for business. In truth, Andaya has long prepared for his appointment. Since the resignation of Emilia Boncodin, Andaya has been attending meetings at the Department of Budget and Management. A vocal defender of the congressional pork barrel (his projects include rehabilitating the Quirino Highway, coincidentally now renamed after his father), and by all accounts a master of the House budgetary process, Andaya will certainly be accessible to his former colleagues. Whether he will maintain the fiscal and budgetary interests of the country in the face of the need to keep the President's political coalition well larded is another matter. While Boncodin could say no to the legions expecting presidential doles, or at least put the squeeze on requests so as to make them more difficult, Andaya by experience and temperament can be expected to have the opposite attitude. This doesn't bode well for fiscal discipline, which the government needs to trim the budget deficit and reduce its debts.

All together, these appointments point to their real inspiration: the President's desire to survive at all costs.



GMA shares blame for Ultra tragedy

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ SAID of the stampede at Ultra (which has been renamed PhilSports Arena) that left 74 people dead and at least 500 injured that there were "shortcomings" in the security preparations for the ill-fated anniversary show of ABS-CBN's "Wowowee." He added: "There will definitely be people responsible. That's why the order of the President is to find criminal or civil liabilities."

For her part, President Macapagal-Arroyo said: "I assure the victims' kin that the ends of criminal and social justice will be served and those responsible will be taken to account for their negligence or misdeeds."

What ironic statements. GMA and Gonzalez may be thinking of the security department or even of the whole management of ABS-CBN, but if we were to be honest and come right down to it, the blame goes all the way up to the President.

Why her, when she had nothing to do with the show? But as Gonzalez himself said, "In cases of negligence and accidents, responsibility has to fall on someone." And who bears the ultimate responsibility but GMA?

Those who went to Ultra were among the Philippines' poorest, mostly jobless citizens. They went there to try to win some of the money to be raffled off in the show. It was their only hope to alleviate their extreme poverty. They had been there waiting for days. In their desperation, they were scrambling to get the tickets that would entitle them to participate in the raffle. That was why there was pushing and shoving until the steel barrier at the gate gave way and those behind rushed forward, trampling those in front, mostly women and children. If they weren't the very poor tempted by the generous prizes in the show, they wouldn't have been there, there would have been no stampede, and the 74 would still have been alive today.

Among the most important duties of a president is to help the poor and give them jobs. This, the incumbent President, no doubt about it, failed to do. She did not live up to her responsibility. On the contrary, many of the people at Ultra said they had become poorer in the last few years, already during the administration of GMA.

Although she was throwing billions of pesos around to please the military, the police, government employees, congressmen and local government officials, she did not provide funds to create jobs for the poor. This is negligence pure and simple.

Ultimately, the responsibility rests on her head. She should be among those to answer for the tragedy.

* * *

The tragedy can also be traced to the ratings war between the two leading channels, 2 and 7. GMA-7's "Eat Bulaga" has long been the ratings champion in the noontime slot, giving out generous prizes to contestants. ABS-CBN competed by launching "Wowowee" in the same time slot, giving out even more generous prizes that were easier to win. What happened last Saturday is the pitfall of too much success.

The show attracted so much following that 40,000 to 50,000 people, some coming from faraway provinces, flocked to Ultra for the scheduled anniversary show last Saturday during which P1.6 million in cash, a house and lot, a passenger jeepney and a tricycle were scheduled to be raffled off. If it had not been suspended because of the tragedy, the show would have been the new champion in the ratings war.

But that is only the worst result of the ratings war. There are other unwelcome results. The two channels have begun imitating each other. If one has a successful show, the other puts up a similar show in the same time slot. GMA-7 has a "Kapuso Foundation" raising funds for charity, so ABS-CBN has its "Kapamilya" and "Bantay Bata" also raising funds for charity. Both channels had caravans that toured the Philippines and the United States with their stars giving shows to promote their respective programs.

Even the news programs became victims of this ratings war. Because stories about "miracles," superstitions, the occult and freaks, and crime attract high viewership, the two channels never miss an opportunity to air stories about statuettes weeping blood, girls being possessed by evil spirits, images of the Virgin Mary seen on banana plants, human and animal babies with two heads and other freaks, *manananggal* and *aswang* terrorizing neighborhoods—thus turning their viewers into idiots who believe in superstitions and non-existent monsters.

Because show-biz gossip also attracts viewers, their news segments have regular entertainment gossip about movie stars having relationships, mostly false stories cooked up by their PROs and movie scribes. Both promote their own soap operas with long and repetitive plugs. They compete with each other in the number of stories tagged as "exclusive" when it is obvious that they are not because the other channels also have the same stories.

Now, it is all right for them to have shows devoted to show business, but please don't smuggle them into the news programs. They detract from the importance and seriousness of the news and irritate the viewers who only want the real news.

In turn, the ratings war is dictated by the wrong habit of the advertisers to give priority to shows with high ratings, not realizing that some programs with high ratings (such as those I mentioned above) have mostly C, D, E viewers, many of whom cannot afford the products they are advertising. In the final analysis, their commercials do not achieve the desired results.

When will they wake up to this fact?

What dreams may come

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT WAS MY FRIEND Pancho Lara who originated that idea that the rampage last Saturday was the true state of the economy. The stampede, he mused in a text message, seemed to him to reflect the way things were economically more than the announcements about the dollar having fallen to 1 to 51 pesos. The real conversion rate, Pancho said, was not 51 to 1, it was 61 to 1: 61 lives (or so it was in the morning of Saturday) to survival. Before I knew it, the message was flying thick and fast in various forms and mutations. But I'll attest to Pancho having begun it.

It's a good insight, and hits the nail right on the head. It puts into words a thought that lies in dormant or inchoate form in many people's minds. Saturday's tragedy has driven home the point of how desperate people have become, the promise of relief or respite or, in this case, a pot of gold driving them to go into a murderous frenzy to get ahead of the line. The images of the living and the dead attested to the dire straits of those who had gathered there hoping for a bit of luck or divine providence: fragile or decrepit old women in particular who had staggered there for a crack at salvation.

That was a combustible mix, as I said before, stark need and a slit of hope, and the organizers of that event should have had the sense to see it and take every care to prevent its combustion. We've seen it before already, and we can only thank our lucky stars there were less tragic consequences.

That was the case in the distribution of the relief goods in Infanta after the killer storm and landslide struck it the other December, the people jostling and shoving and threatening to trample the weak underfoot at the first sign of the trucks carrying relief goods. The victims had had no water for some time, which was their main concern, more than food. When the first trucks to untangle their way through the mud and debris came through, they had to be protected by soldiers with heavy arms from being overrun.

One might argue that that was a different case, that was a matter of survival, that was a matter of life and death. But look at the faces of the women, children and men (in that order) that queued at Ultra and later sent their lamentations to the heavens and see if that wasn't a matter of survival, if that wasn't a matter of life and death.

Indeed, we've seen it in more benign forms in the long queues that form before the lotto stations in malls and streets. The last one, which advertised close to P200 million, had queues that positively slithered around street corners. I confess that if not for those long lines, which reminded me of the lines that form in the Vatican, the faithful waiting patiently for a glimpse of the divine, I myself would have bought a ticket or two for a crack at *kariwasaan*. I've been working my ass off all my life, and for most of that life barely keeping my head above water.

It's a grim reminder, and affirmation, of what Cielito Habito has been saying in various forums. That this country has a way of passing on hardship to the people in times of want and keeping blessings away from them in times of plenty. The poor are getting poorer for the simple reason that they are getting less and less, whatever this country's economic condition is. As Habito says, even during the economic boom of the mid-1990s, the Ramos administration failed to alleviate poverty. It failed to distribute the manna, the thing getting stuck upstairs. Habito ought to know, he was Ramos' economic planning czar.

If that was true during Ramos' time, that is even truer today. GMA's government has borrowed more and more money, and for every P10 that it collects, it pays P9 to service debt, a thing unprecedented in this country's history as Habito points out. The remaining P1, well, we can safely surmise it goes to pay for Pidal's vices.

All of which shows the monumental folly of saying one is "tired of politics," "let's move on" and concentrate on the economy. Politics does not just decide what kind of economic plans are made, it decides who reaps the benefits of plenitude and the impact of bad policies. You get tired of politics, you'll move on only to more poverty and hardship however the economy goes. Or so if you're already poor. If you're rich, or corrupt, you'll get even richer, even if the country becomes the basket case of Asia. Which it is today.

But all this is rarified air and understandable only to those who have the ken and yearning for it. There is the tragedy last Saturday to show that government's claims about economic gains are like a huge billboard hiding a festering slum from the prying eyes of visiting dignitaries. The peso may have rallied against the dollar but none of that is giving the poor a breather. Between GMA's promise of paradise and Willie Revillame's "*kwarta o kahon*," the poor know which one they have more chances to profit from. It is the face of poverty. It is the true state of the nation. The poor have gotten so poor they are reduced to prayer and lotto, the Black Nazarene and the blackguard Willie Revillame, the rosary and "Wowowee" for their survival.

That is what the people's dreams are now made of. "To sleep: perchance to dream: ay, there's the rub; For in that sleep of death what dreams may come." That is part of Hamlet's famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy, which used to be recited by high school kids in declamation contests.

What dreams may come indeed in the sleep of death.

The Islamic democratic paradox

COMMENTARY

Álvaro de Vasconcelos

THE RAGE ACROSS THE ARAB WORLD OVER the publication in Denmark (months ago) of cartoons depicting the prophet Mohammed, together with the victory of Hamas in Palestine and the increasing radicalization of Iran's politics, has made "political Islam" a fundamental question of international diplomacy. But a one-size-fits-all response won't work. Indeed, we need to abandon the idea that there is a holistic or global Islamist movement.

Political Islam of all colors has emerged as the main alternative to secular Arab nationalist regimes whose legitimacy, based on the struggle for national liberation, has evaporated due to their inability to resolve economic and social problems, establish the rule of law, and guarantee fundamental freedoms. In Palestine, for example, the Islamists triumphed over Fatah because of years of bad governance under the harsh conditions spawned by Israeli occupation.

Successive European and American governments share an atavistic fear of the "Islamic alternative" to Arab secular nationalists like Fatah, and so have defended the status quo. But repression of all Arab opposition movements by the region's monarchs and secular dictators meant that "protection of the mosque" became the only umbrella under which to engage politically.

Now political Islam can no longer be contained, because democracy cannot be built by driving underground parties that have a strong social base, as was tragically demonstrated in Algeria 15 years ago. The only alternative to authoritarianism is to craft a transition that allows Islamists to participate in public life and encourages them to accept unequivocally the rules of the democratic game.

There are already many examples of more or less conservative Islamist parties willing to play along. It is no accident that there are Islamists in the legislatures of all the countries undergoing some form of political reform, including Lebanon, where Hezbollah is part of a freely elected government, as well as Jordan and Morocco.

In Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood has become a strong force in parliament despite the limits imposed on the participation of Islamist groups in last year's elections. In Iraq, free elections have revealed the enormous influence of Islamist currents. In Turkey, the transition to democracy led the Islamist Justice and Development Party to power. That government has undertaken various important democratic reforms and initiated accession negotiations with the European Union. These Islamist parties have nothing to do with al- Qaida, even though some of the most conservative among them have adopted somewhat similar ideological positions.

The risk of political transitions that may lead to the victory of Islamist parties is a democratic paradox that Europe and the United States must accept if they are to devise inclusive reform policies—in other words, policies that are the polar opposite of the type of democratic imposition practiced in occupied Iraq. Indeed, one of the less fortunate consequences of the intervention in Iraq was to reinforce the notion of a "clash of civilizations" between the West from Islam, which in turn serves to create a climate favorable to Islamist movements.

After all, political reform movements in the Muslim world emerged long before the US-led "war on terror," and reformists were not waiting for the EU to become stronger to press for change. These movements were not created in the United States or Europe after Sept. 11, 2001, and they will not wait for or depend on the United States or the EU to act. Nevertheless, the success of Muslim moderates may well depend on how the EU and the United States respond to pressure for reform and how they decide to encourage change.

It is now necessary to show that democracy is the best path for Palestinians to attain their national goals. This depends largely on the new Hamas government and its transformation into a democratic force that respects the rule of law, democracy and international legality. But it also depends on Israel and the international community, which must do all they can to ensure a future Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Supporting Palestinian democratization does not mean that the international community should not demand that Hamas abandon terror once and for all, demilitarize, respect the Palestinian constitution and accept the existence of the state of Israel. But it also does not mean supporting sanctions that would hurt the Palestinian people after they have expressed their will democratically. This would be a terrible mistake in any effort to consolidate Palestine's new democracy, with a negative impact in other reforming countries in the Arab world.

Similarly, accepting the right of non-violent Islamists to participate in public life does not mean giving up on the political and ideological struggle to defeat ultra-conservative, and in some cases totalitarian, conceptions of society. Combating racism, promoting tolerance and respecting the religious sentiments of others do not mean that we need to question press freedom or accept the Islamists' demands for censorship, even when real religious sentiments are offended, as in the case of the Danish caricatures. Islamist conceptions of society that violate individual rights must be rebutted politically.

That political challenge is one of the paradoxes of democracy, which allows all ideas to compete freely with each other. Political Islam is a risk, but we can minimize it only by devising intelligent, case-sensitive strategies that promote democracy, not by denouncing the results of democratic choice.

Project Syndicate

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Breaking news and 'sawa' journalism

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON THE MORNING OF FEB. 4, SATURDAY, THE second and last day of the annual "MediaNation" summit of the news media and various stakeholders, the ABS-CBN contingent rushed out of the conference room, with ANC anchor Ricky Carandang hurriedly explaining that they were off to cover a "breaking news" event.

The rest of us would find out later, by word of mouth and text messages, what the "breaking news" was, and it seemed an oddly apt way of capping a one-day summit on "Media and the Market."

"Talk about giving the market what it wants!" one participant remarked. The deadly stampede at the PhilSports Arena is one of the rare instances in which the entertainment media, the news media and the market intersected. Advertiser demand, as well as heated competition for a shrinking advertising pie, led to the creation of a game show which, for its first anniversary, promised not just generous prizes to contestants but thousands of pesos to members of the audience just for showing up. And when the crowd that gathered turned into a mob fueled by fears of not being among the lucky few in the arena, the event transformed from an entertainment spectacle to a disaster, a legitimate subject for news coverage.

The entertainment media have not been part of MediaNation's three-year history, but at the close of MN3, a recommendation was made to include them in the discussions. The argument goes that with the increasing "tabloidization" or "telenovelalization" of news and public affairs shows, the line between news and public affairs on one side and entertainment on the other is blurring. More and more, entertainment or "show-biz" news are making their way into evening news shows, effectively bumping off business and sports news. Though the early evening news shows are holding fast, the hours devoted to "primetime" entertainment shows have steadily expanded, pushing late-evening news and public affairs shows to past midnight and the early-morning hours.

* * *

A POINT which had been advanced not just this year but in previous MediaNation summits was the responsibility of broadcast networks to isolate their news and public affairs departments from the pressures of ratings—and thereby having to "tailor" their contents to meet market demands.

Since broadcast networks apply for a franchise to allow them use of a public resource—the airwaves—for their own profit, they have an obligation to perform public service, by way of news and public affairs shows. This was the case some 30 or 40 years ago, the old-timers among the participants averred. But the picture changed entirely when TV news shows began pulling in the ratings, leading network management to measure them by the same yardstick to which they subjected their entertainment departments.

TV reporters buttressed this view, noting how viewership tracking technology has evolved to such an extent that a "minute-by-minute" measurement can be taken even as a news program airs. "Woe to you if your viewers change channels just as your report is airing," one reporter said. "If it happens too often, your stories might get bumped down to the last minutes of the newscast."

* * *

A TERM coined during the summit was "*sawa* journalism," arising from the observation that, in at least one network, a story on the discovery of a python airs almost every evening. It's difficult to explain how this became such a staple of TV news, although one factor has to be the arresting visuals of cringing handlers carrying out the giant slimy creature to the visible relief of community members.

"There's factual basis for this *naman*," laughed a TV news producer. And indeed, it's been found that there's a disproportionate number of pythons around the country. Also, the airing of a "*sawa*" story once or twice tends to create its own momentum, with people eagerly calling the station each time they discover a giant snake or want to surrender their "pet" to the authorities.

The same holds true for other stories. I remember one such wave of stories about aborted fetuses, with the discovery of a fetus reported each evening, and hardly any contextualizing, such as the growing number of abortions in this country and why women are driven to such desperate lengths to the point of endangering their lives.

This would all be simply amusing if such stories did not bump off other stories of greater significance. Or else, ate into the time budget of the newscast, preventing reporters from going into more depth on important stories. There are certainly issues on which we need more enlightenment as citizens than the finding of yet another *sawa*.

* * *

FOR the moment, the news spotlight is focused on the aftermath of the PhilSports Arena tragedy, specifically the findings of culpability of ABS-CBN, as the organizer of the "Wowowee" extravaganza, for the deaths of 74 people and the injuries of more than 500.

As a consequence, most TV newscasts, as well as the front pages of newspapers, have been devoted for the last few days to the disaster and its aftermath. Heart-rending indeed have been the photos and footage of the area in front of the gate, as well as of grieving relatives loudly wailing or else shocked into catatonia at the seemingly meaningless deaths.

The media have also not lacked for commentators willing to air the usual sentiments, from how the frantic crowd symbolized the poverty and desperation of the majority of the Filipinos to the lack of disaster preparedness of Filipinos in general.

These are all proper responses, if not a little too predictable. But at least the coverage has expanded into important issues. I wonder, though, when we'll soon be swamped again with images of *sawa*.

The first push

COMMENTARY

Bud Tomas

"ONE DEATH IS A TRAGEDY; A THOUSAND, A statistic."

It is 1 a.m. as I write this, and the events of the early morning are still roiling in my head, preventing me from sleeping. The death toll from the stampede at the "Wowowee" anniversary stands at 73, with hundreds injured.

I watched the coverage by ABS-CBN on the aftermath of the stampede. I heard the wails of grief from bereaved relatives who identified the bodies of their loved ones. I looked at the chaos left behind, after the dead and injured had been taken away. I saw Willie Revillame in tears. I saw the survivors weeping and trembling from the ordeal.

I saw the battered bodies lying on the streets. Children were numbered among the dead, children who may have just tagged along on what should've been a fun outing. Families were torn apart, some child losing a parent, someone else losing a sister, or a grandmother. I saw people hugging body bags, some screaming, some silent.

I looked on as they showed Revillame, in tears, announcing the cancellation of the show to the audience already inside the Ultra, and winced as the mob hooted and cheered, not really listening to what he was telling them.

I saw the cameramen and reporters doing their jobs, intruding into people's grief and letting all the human drama play out on TV screens across the nation.

I saw crowds watching as the faces of the dead were shown on a screen in hopes that someone would come forth to identify them.

I counted the numbers from the hospitals, then the funeral parlors.

I looked on as ABS-CBN, through its executives and talents, promised aid and succor to those affected.

As with all tragedies, after the initial tears, we'll look to fix blame, for someone to take responsibility for all this.

ABS-CBN's Gabby Lopez said that the network would take care of all the costs, for the dead and those injured. It was their show, after all, that all these people came to see, and that some of them died for. The security measures they took to control the crowd will be investigated.

And, of course, those with an axe to grind against President Macapagal-Arroyo would place the bodies at the gates of Malacañang, saying this was all brought about by the desperate attempt to escape the poverty this administration has inflicted on the masses, that people would clutch at winning in a game show as their ticket out.

But while poor crowd management or desperation may have had some part in this, I think greater blame lays elsewhere.

I blame the mob.

This may not be the most politically correct statement to make, since all the victims were part of the mob. I am saddened by the deaths and injuries, but I cannot say that the network was wholly to blame. Neither can I blithely lay the corpses at GMA's feet.

When the thousands of people started pushing and shoving, what kind of crowd control would've worked? Cattle prods? Tear gas? Riot police with truncheons?

Or was ABS-CBN at fault for giving people this game show to pin their hopes and dreams on? Should all contests offering money or prizes be banned? Perhaps.

To say that desperation moved these thousands of people to flock to Ultra may be too sweeping a statement. Were all the people in the crowds jobless? Underemployed? To say that poverty made all this happen and thus the government is to blame, one would have to prove first that these people were all impoverished, and that their poverty is really the government's fault. These are not statements I will accept without proof. And a rabid hatred for GMA is definitely not proof.

It strikes me how undisciplined Filipinos are. Simple rules just aren't followed. Look at the traffic jams, or even the traffic that moves. See buses swerving maniacally, jeepneys picking up or dropping off passengers in the middle of the road, and illegal counterflows. Look at pedestrians crossing under a pedestrian overpass, and watch them give dagger looks when motorists honk their horns at them.

I've found that even getting into the mall at lunchtime is a struggle, as people crowd around to squeeze into one small doorway, instead of lining up single file and proceeding in an orderly fashion. Or in the supermarket, when people line up carts filled to the brim at the express lane, blissfully ignoring the sign that says "12 items or less." In the theaters, there is always one boor who will not turn off his cell phone or put it on silent mode.

Too many people are just trying to get ahead of the pack, without consideration for those around them, without considering the consequences of their actions. If it benefits them, they do it, without looking back.

Desperation is one thing. Becoming uncivilized is another. We do not excuse criminals who do the things they do because of poverty. Neither should poverty and desperation be used as an excuse to let chaos run rampant. Poverty is not an excuse to trample upon your fellow man in order to grab that brass ring.

The chaos started because someone would not wait, someone was afraid he might not get in, and that someone started pushing. And the person he pushed, pushed the one in front of him. And as the flap of a butterfly's wings can cause a hurricane, the human tidal wave was started, with all the innocents caught in its wake.

I am sure the investigators will look into the measures ABS-CBN took to control the crowd. And I am sure plenty of people will want the network executives' heads on spikes for this tragedy, blaming them for negligence and corporate greed. I am sure the government will get its share of blows for the poverty and desperation that drove this mob on.

That blame would be misplaced.

The hands that are soiled with the blood of children are those of the person who gave the fatal first push.

Bud Tomas is a young lawyer working at the Supreme Court.

Mob control

LAST MONDAY, THE INQUIRER PUBLISHED A PARTIAL list of fatalities from the Ultra stampede. Skimming through the names, I quickly realized that of the 59 listed, only two were males.

Events of this type tend to attract more females than males, but I still think the proportion of female deaths is much too high. A more plausible reason is that there were more women at the front of the lines, so when the stampede broke out, they were the ones who were crushed to death.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

That leads us to another question: What is it in our psyche that allows women—many of these were *lolas*—to be put in harm's way?

Much has been written about the way poverty and despair conspired to cause this tragedy. I think we need to think, too, of some serious changes going on in society that compound the problems even more.

The problem with the "Wowowee" event wasn't just crowd control. It was a mob out there.

We're bad with queuing. It's not an exclusively Filipino trait, I will qualify very quickly here. Queuing is something that comes as society learns to be more civil as we realize the lines are there as a way of respecting the rights of people. When you jump a queue, and that includes do-it-yourself counterflow on the roads, you are being unfair in violating the rights of others who have waited.

Many of those who did queue up for "Wowowee" tickets, some as early as two days in advance, were elderly women. From the videos, you can see the men were at the back, and this is not surprising: men just don't have the patience for lines, so they wait till the last minute . . . and then get impatient.

This is not to say women don't jump queues; sometimes they do use gender to get their way, and with a vengeance. It's harder to rebuke a woman trying to get into the line, and I've experienced quite a few "small but terrible" ones elbowing their way through a line as people watch helplessly.

And yet if we do let a *lola* get her way as she jumps the queue, it's really our way of expressing both respect for the elderly and a sense of fairness, recognizing her special needs.

At the "Wowowee" event, all that civility went out the window. Let's just be thankful CNN and BBC didn't mention that many of those who were trampled to death were *lolas*.

Limited good

If you look at the global statistics on deadly stampedes, you'll find they're usually of two types. One would be those that occur almost yearly in Mecca, during the hadj. Here, the problem is that the large number of pilgrims (you're talking of as many as two million in one place) simply overwhelm all security measures.

The other cluster of deadly stampedes occur around football. Here the problem is clearly one of hysterical fervor, of mainly male fans caught up in their fanaticism over the sport, sometimes with brawling.

The Ultra stampede doesn't fit into the global pattern. What we have here is something that was described several decades ago by an American anthropologist, George Foster, as "the image of limited good," the idea that certain "good" resources are limited. He was studying a Mexican village and noted that whenever someone experienced good fortune—sudden wealth, for example—rumors would spread that the person had entered into a pact with the Devil.

In the Philippines, and quite a few other countries, we call this the "crab mentality": instead of congratulating people who have done well, we pull them down, much like crabs in a basket, and insinuate corruption, favoritism, connections.

To boost their ratings, the "Wowowee" producers offered a large number of free tickets and raffle prizes, attracting people even from outside Metro Manila. People were desperate for a chance to get in, but knew as well the "goods" (tickets, prizes) were limited. You see this every day at the TV networks studios, smaller but still substantial crowds of 4,000 or 5,000 at a time, queuing to be able to watch one of the noontime no-brainers, to get both entertainment as well as a chance to participate in games and win prizes.

The tragedy at Ultra was a deadlier form of the crab mentality. The refusal to line up properly was really another way of saying: "I don't care if they lined up and waited. I deserve some of the goods as well and if I can't get in, no one else will."

Perverted? You see it every day on our streets, in the traffic gridlocks caused by motorists who violate traffic rules to block an intersection and then won't give way.

More disasters

Our high government officials should go out into the real world and see for themselves how there might be more disasters percolating. Visit the lower-end malls on a weekend and watch the crowds, packed shoulder to shoulder, trying to catch a free celebrity performance or navigating their way around *tiangges* that try to pack in far too many stalls. Try looking for the exits and figure out how you're going to evacuate several thousand people when needed.

Or join the long queues for tickets at the LRT stations, especially the one at North Edsa. A stampede can break out there for any number of reasons—a bomb scare, a fire—and there will be many lives lost because the exit area is just too narrow. The chances for disaster are amplified by the way the crowds push with the usual bunch of lowlife trying to jump the queue and others protesting, "*Pumila ka* (Line up)!" Tempers are understandably frayed, a crowd always ready to mutate into a mob.

While other countries learn to be more civil, we seem to become more rude, more mean, by the day. I've been in lines where people don't just push but literally shove you aside to get to the front. I've seen young kids do this to the elderly in supermarkets, and I'm talking here about Rustan's, so let's not point the finger at the "uneducated" and the "poor" alone. In fact, class is an important factor affecting our inability to queue—everyone thinks they're of a higher class than other people, and therefore entitled to get ahead of that "lower class" person in the line. Others are even worse, thinking that lining up is beneath their class, period.

What to do now? Airlines give preferential boarding to kids, the elderly, the disabled (or differently abled). We should have similar measures whenever there are long queues, whether for something like "Wowowee" or for LRT tickets.

Getting people to queue is another matter. We see it working out, to some extent, at jeepney stops, which shows it is possible to train ourselves. But ultimately, we need to be very conscious about teaching, in homes, schools and parishes, that queueing is a matter of virtue, of patience and of fairness. And looking back at the Ultra tragedy, we might add now that queuing may sometimes be a matter of life and death.

That wonderful word 'nice'

ISABELLE RODOLFO'S YOUNGBLOOD piece, "My '*konyo*' friend" (PDI, 1/24/06) reminded me of two young women who met years after their high school days. The quiet one inquired about what the sophisticated one had been up to. The latter regaled the former with fantastic stories about how she was living the high life—fancy clothes and cars, this bling and that bling and other worldly pleasures. To every claim of luxurious and *soci gimik* of the sophisticated one, the quiet one would just say "that's nice."

Then it was the sophisticated one's turn to ask what the quiet one had been doing. The quiet one replied: "Oh, not much. My parents sent me to Switzerland to study."

"And how was that?" the sophisticated one queried with a noticeable lack of genuine interest.

"Oh, very boring, really. The only thing the teachers kept hammering on us was never to say "s__t" and say "nice" instead.

—LEANDRO V. CORONEL

No smugglers attended Estrada-Farolan meeting

THIS IS IN REACTION TO RAMON TULfo's Jan. 28 column, titled: "Jinggoy is acting again," where he intimated that Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, during the incumbency of his father, President Joseph Estrada, used his influence to protect and accommodate known smugglers. Tulfo even narrated that, in one meeting, the senator introduced some alleged smugglers to then Customs Commissioner Ramon Farolan, with the instruction that they be left untouched.

Although a meeting did take place between the senator and Farolan, we wish to clarify that it was a dinner meeting and not a lunch meeting. Moreover, the dinner meeting was only attended by three people: Estrada, Farolan and Colonel Jamias.

During that meeting, the senator merely reiterated the policy laid down by President Estrada that the Bureau of Customs should place behind bars anyone who uses the name of any member of the Estrada family to gain undue advantage over legitimate businesses in the country.

It would be prudent on Tulfo's part if he first checks and verifies his sources, as well as his facts so that he will not unduly spread half-truths and outright lies which can gravely tarnish the name and reputation of innocent people like Senator Estrada.

—SIMEON E. GARCIA JR.,
chief of staff,
Office of Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada,
GSIS Building,
Financial Center, Pasay City

Ninoy-Pacquiao: wrong comparison

IN HIS JAN. 30 COLUMN, RECAH Trinidad wrote: "It may be exaggerated, but Jan. 21, 2006, when Pacquiao conquered Morales to avenge a previous loss, could be equal in importance, if not in significance, to Aug. 21, 1983, when Ninoy Aquino was slain upon his return to his beloved country."

Upon reading this, I nearly fell off my seat. I wonder what was Trinidad's basis for putting these two events on the same level. Aug. 21, 1983 was not the death of Ninoy Aquino. It was the rebirth of democracy and the reawakening of the Filipino people. Jan. 22, 2006 was nothing more than a perfect example of what hard work and discipline can do.

Aug. 21, 1983 was the beginning of the new dawn for the Philippines and charted a new course for the country while Jan 22, 2006 was nothing more than a media spectacle.

Aug. 21, 1983 was the final victory of a man who stood and fought a long and lonely battle almost by himself during one of the darkest and most trying times in our nation's history where freedom was at stake, while Jan. 22, 2006 was just another prized fight, earning millions for the fighters, promoters and media handlers.

The comparison Trinidad made was not only exaggerated but also bereft of any significance and importance.

—RUBEN C. ROZAL,
49 K-9 Street,
West Kamias, Quezon City

Samar's roads do not lead to progress

IT WAS THE FONDEST DREAM OF MY brother-in-law (and his kids, my niece and nephew), after spending 10 years in the United States, to visit his hometown. They realized their dream last Dec. 29, 2005 to January 2006. The whole family was excited to see his "*tinubuang lupa*" since much has been said about the progress, the accomplishments, the beauty and the splendor of our country. After all, the Department of Tourism has been encouraging us to visit our beautiful native land.

Since I am also from Samar, I joined my sister, brother-in-law and others in their visit to Catbalogan, Samar. But an experience dampened our excitement, happiness and fun. To our dismay, we found the roads to Catbalogan so terrible, so horrible that the tire of our car suddenly burst, and this while we were on a road stretch that was poorly lighted. Our fun, happiness and dream of enjoying the trip to our beloved hometown turned into a nightmare because of the poor, terrible roads. We felt so discouraged and helpless during that incident. The tire of the newly acquired Starex van was totally damaged.

In spite of the heartaches and frustrations experienced by my brother-in-law and his family in that trip, they're still looking forward to visit Catbalogan again, but hoping that next time the roads will be well-paved and cemented.

—REV. FR. FIDEL G. FABILE,
parish priest,
Mary Immaculate Parish,
Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas City

GMA is the solution

I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT DESPITE THE PROVEN INsincerity of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a few people could still believe that the solutions to the country's problems would be found by convening the so-called Council of State. It was GMA herself who created the problems. In fact, she is the main problem and her stepping down is the main solution.

As long as she adamantly continues to arrogate power onto herself, the problems will linger, coups will remain a possibility and she will spend most of her time serving herself. She cannot function effectively as her sole priority is to protect herself and her own interests and preserve her hold on the presidency. The interests of the country will just be secondary.

Former President Corazon Aquino did right when she refused to play a part in that Council of State charade. If principled persons like her had participated, they would have been used merely as props in a real-life drama staged-managed by GMA and her ilk.

It would be naive for anyone to think that GMA's hypocritical concoctions, like the Council of State, can still serve the nation.

—RAMON MAYUGA,
GeRMayuga@aol.com

Yes, tired of GMA, not of political noise

I CANNOT HELP BUT AGREE WITH CONrado de Quiros in his column "Change." (PDI, 1/19/06) He is right: The public is not tired of "political noise," the public is tired of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. And over these past weeks, probably, of Fidel Ramos and Jose de Venecia, too.

Look at the surveys. No, just listen to your neighbors. They do not say that the overwhelming majority of Filipinos find the Charter defective, they say the overwhelming majority of Filipinos find their President defective.

It therefore behooves GMA "to cut and cut clean," to quote former US Sen. Paul Laxalt in order to save our country from political perdition.

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR,
vice mayor,
Pagsanjan, Laguna

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture
ISO 9001, 2000 CERTIFIED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

February 6, 2006

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, invites suppliers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Package	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract
I.	Kitchen Furnitures and Equipment	P 720,000.00
II.	PABX System with accessories and other related equipment	700,000.00
Total		P 1,420,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check and Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 20 to 24, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference (Madamba Hall PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija)	March 13, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Opening of Bids (Madamba Hall PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija)	March 24, 2006
4. Bid Evaluation	March 20 to April 5, 2006
5. Post-qualification	April 6 to 12, 2006
6. Notice of Award	10 calendar days after Post Qualification period

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the PCC Cashier.

PCC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid.

(Sgd.) **EULOGIO M. MONTEALTO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 8, 2006)

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture
ISO 9001, 2000 CERTIFIED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

February 6, 2006

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project described below:

Name of Project : **"Sustainable System of Propagation for Superior Genetics Dairy Buffaloes for Smallhold Farmers"**
Location : **PCC National Gene Pool and Headquarters, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija**
Brief Description : **Supply 500 heads crossbreds (PCxMB) carabaos**
Approved Budget for the Contract : **P12,500,000.00**
Contract Duration : **150 calendar days**
Delivery Period : **60 calendar days**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

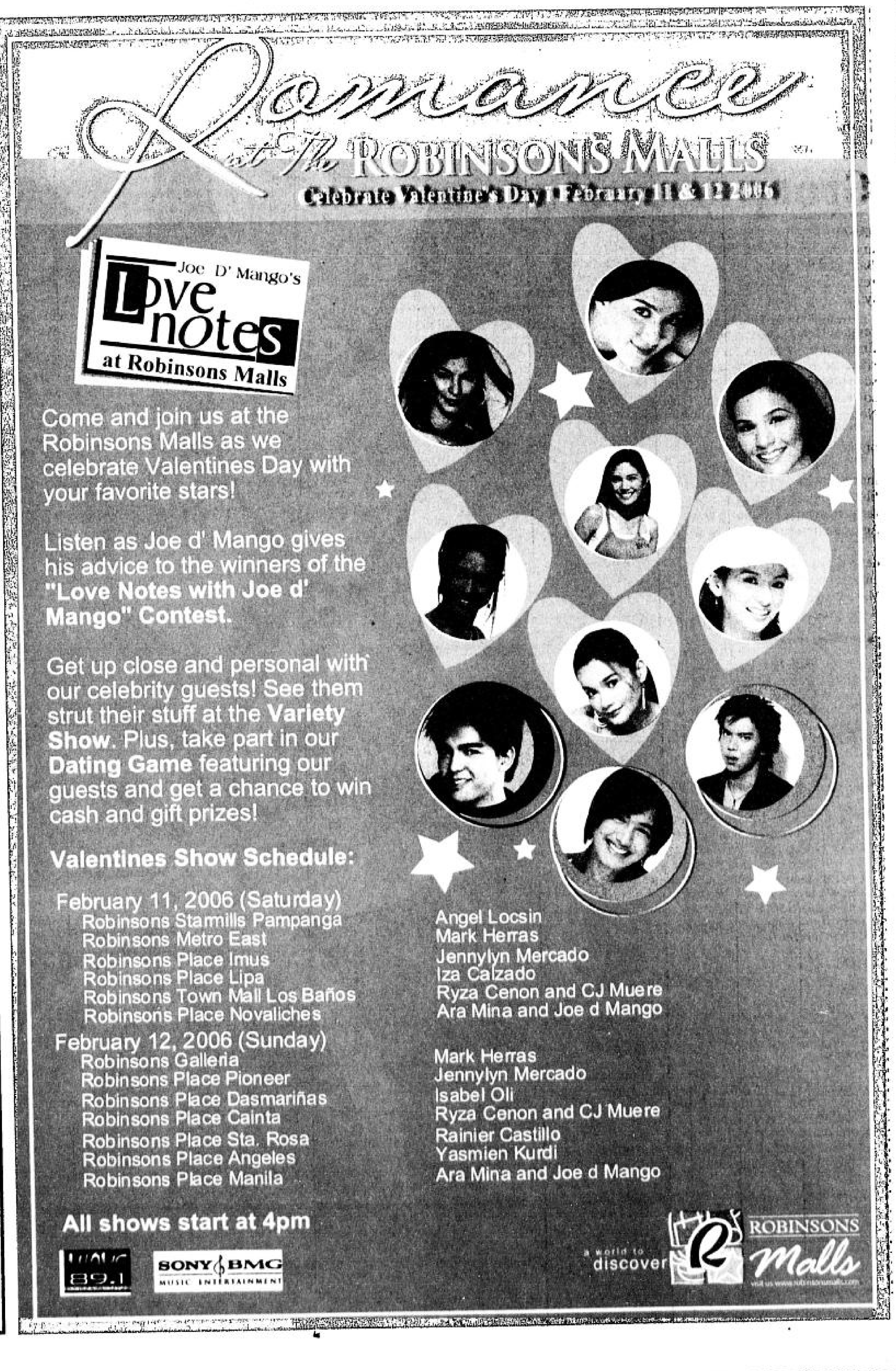
Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 27 to March 3, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference (Madamba Hall PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija)	March 22, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Opening of Bids (Madamba Hall PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija)	April 3, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)
4. Bid Evaluation	April 4 to 18, 2006
5. Post-qualification	April 19 to 25, 2006
6. Notice of Award	15 calendar days after Post Qualification period

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the PCC Cashier.

PCC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid.

(Sgd.) **EULOGIO M. MONTEALTO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 8 & 15, 2006)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February 11, 2006 (Saturday)

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Robinsons Metro East	Mark Herras
Robinsons Place Imus	Jennylyn Mercado
Robinsons Place Lipa	Iza Calzado
Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños	Ryza Cenon and CJ Muere
Robinsons Place Novaliches	Ara Mina and Joe d Mango

February 12, 2006 (Sunday)

Robinsons Galleria	Mark Herras
Robinsons Place Pioneer	Jennylyn Mercado
Robinsons Place Dasmariñas	Isabel Oli
Robinsons Place Cainta	Ryza Cenon and CJ Muere
Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa	Rainier Castillo
Robinsons Place Angeles	Yasmien Kurdi
Robinsons Place Manila	Ara Mina and Joe d Mango

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Mine execs decry bishops' 'influence'

DAVAO CITY—LEADERS OF THE MINING INdustry in Southern Mindanao have warned the Arroyo administration against giving in to the demand of Roman Catholic bishops to repeal the Mining Act of 1995, saying the call was "undue influence" of the Church in government affairs.

"That would be an undue influence, and we will not allow that," said lawyer Melanio Andresan of Philco Mining.

If and when the President gives in to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' demand to ensure the Church's support for her to remain in power, mining industry players will definitely stand in the way, he added.

Andresan said the government could not go to the mountains and feed the indigenous peoples (IPs) who would suffer the brunt of economic hardships should mining activities be stopped.

Following the CBCP statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the suspension of mining activities in Bicol. She also directed concerned government agencies to put mining operations throughout the country under closer scrutiny.

Edgar Martinez, president of the Mindanao Association for Mining Industry Inc. (Mina), said the mining sector would be in a collision course with the CBCP if the bishops would insist on their demand without bothering to listen to the side of mining investors and the IPs who claimed to have benefited from mining.

"What the CBCP did was very encompassing. If government will bow to one sector's interest, then there is something wrong in the present administration," Martinez said.

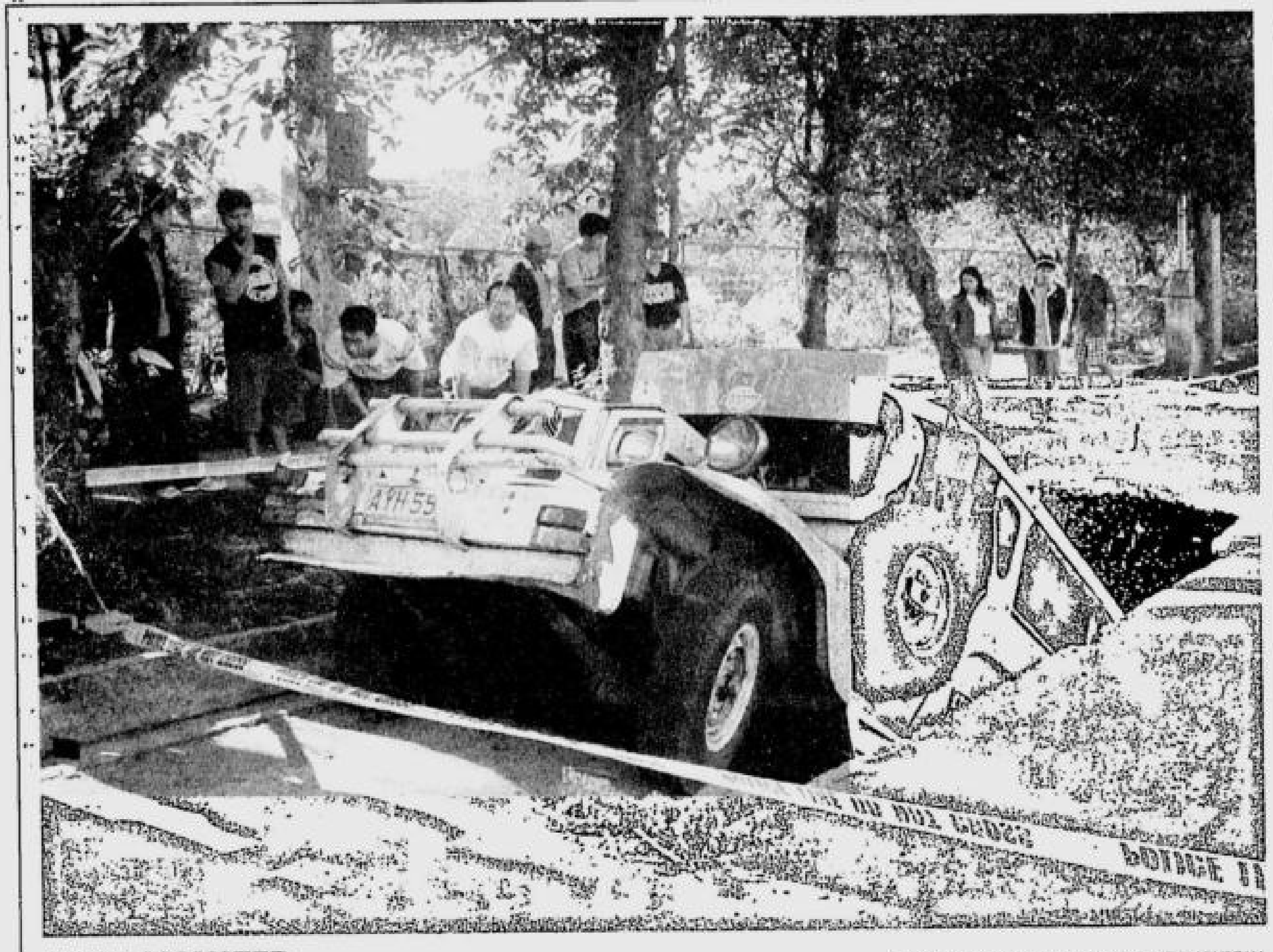
He said the CBCP statement had chilled foreign investors, including those who are not into mining but have other investments in the country.

Still, Martinez said the mining industry leaders would continue dialogues with antimining groups to come up with a win-win solution to the issue of whether mining was good for the country.

The CBCP issued the statement following reports of two mining spills in Rapu-Rapu, Albay which leaked cyanide into creeks leading to the Pacific Ocean.

The spills also created a fish scare in Sorsogon province after consumers stopped buying fish for fear that these were contaminated with mercury and heavy metals.

Lafayette Mining Inc. (LMI), which operates the Rapu-Rapu mines, has denied using mercury in its operations. Its statement was backed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. *Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



ROAD MONSTER

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The quality of Philippine roads could best be gleaned from this collapsed part of Harrison Road in Baguio City that appears to have eaten up a jeepney.

NGO tells gov't ignoring bases toxic waste issue is trade risk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A NONgovernment organization demanding the cleanup of former US military bases in the Philippines on Monday warned a top Clark Development Corp. official not to turn a blind eye on the toxic waste problem, saying this was risky to the redevelopment of Clark as an ecozone.

The People's Task Force for Bases Clean-up raised concerns after CDC president and chief executive officer Antonio Ng called the toxic waste problem a "non-issue." Ng made the statement during a recent meeting with INQUIRER correspondents in Northern and Central Luzon.

Myrla Baldonado, PTFBC executive director, said the "non-recognition of the problem will lead to further exposure of the immediate inhabitants of the base, including him and his family (in case they live there), to toxic and hazardous wastes that are released as sites that are identified and are potentially contaminated are excavated to give way to infrastructures."

While Ng, who assumed the post in March last year, dispelled the issue, he nevertheless agreed to look into it.

CDC executive vice president, Victor Jose Luciano, said the 12 sites identified by an environmental study in 1996 had been closed to reuse.

In a statement, Baldonado said the conversion of Clark could not take place without a cleanup. Public health and investments "cannot be sacrificed in the altar of quick cash," she said.

She said the state-owned CDC could face "serious consequences of even liability suits for damages if they continue not to inform investors of the existing problem." There are almost 400 firms now in Clark employing nearly 37,000 workers.

Ng, she said, was "aggressively marketing the property while ignoring the contamination problem which could potentially harm even the management, investors, workers, employees, developers, tourists and the residents of nearby communities."

Baldonado said there was a "huge body of evidence of contamination" at Clark, at the former Subic Naval Base and other American bases shut down starting 1991 on the heels of the Senate's rejection of an extension of the 1947 Philippine-US military bases agreement.

The contamination, she said, was confirmed in reports by the US General Accounting Office (GAO, the investigative arm of US Congress), the US Department of Defense, and the Weston International environmental study.

The Department of Health, for one, confirmed the high levels of lead and arsenic in the blood of several Mt. Pinatubo evacuees who were sheltered at the Clark Air Base Command, a former motor pool of the US Air Force, she said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Group fears court ruling will trigger Nasugbu land grabbing

TAGAYTAY CITY—AN ALLIANCE OF PEOPLE'S and nongovernment organizations in Nasugbu, Batangas has called on the Supreme Court to reverse a decision of the Court of Appeals classifying the entire town as a tourist zone.

Clarito Caisip, chair of Alyansa 1520, expressed fears that once the Supreme Court affirmed the CA decision, it could trigger massive land grabbing not only in Nasugbu but also in other areas in the country, which have also been declared tourism zones like Ilocos Norte and Bataan.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide on the issue early this year.

The family of Don Pedro Roxas, who owns more than 3,000 hectares of land in Nasugbu, filed a petition for exemption from agrarian reform coverage before the Department of Agrarian Reform and the CA.

The landowner based the petition on Presidential Decree No. 1520 which declared the entire area of Nasugbu, as well as Ternate and Maragondon in Cavite part of a tourist zones.

The proclamation, however, clarified the need to "conduct the necessary study and to segregate specific geographical areas for concentrated efforts of both the government and private sectors in developing their tourism potential."

At least 75 percent of Nasugbu is devoted to agriculture, making it an agrarian reform area. According to Alliance 1520, some 3,000 agrarian reform beneficiaries now till more than 8,000 hectares of land.

It said the CA decision automatically reclassifying Nasugbu as a tourist area misinterpreted Proclamation 1520.

It ignored the certifications issued by the Philippine Tourism Authority and the local government that they have yet to identify specific geographical areas with tourism potential in Nasugbu, Caisip told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"It also ignored the Nasugbu Sangguniang Bayan resolution attesting to the fact that no ordinance or comprehensive land-use plan has converted Roxas properties or portions thereof to non-agricultural use," he said. *Delfin Mallari, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVELIHOOD CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID

The Livelihood Corporation - KKK Processing Authority is inviting interested parties to join in the public bidding for the sale or lease of the following real estate properties:

PROPERTY/ADDRESS	AREA	DESCRIPTION	FLOOR PRICE
1. MAKATI PROPERTY 7th Flr. One Corporate Plaza, 845 Arnaiz Ave.,Makati City	987.75 sq.m.	Condominium Units (Whole 7th Floor)	39,510,000.00
2. LAGUNA PROPERTY Km. 71, Brgy. San Andres, Alaminos, Laguna	17,394 sq.m.	Industrial Land (Former Dairy Project)	7,456,000.00
3. DAVAO PROPERTY R. Castillo Street, Brgy. Agdao, Davao City	3,695 sq.m.	Light Industrial Land	5,815,000.00
4. BULACAN PROPERTY Purok 4, Brgy. Santisima Trinidad, Malolos, Bulacan	3,397 sq.m.	Residential Land	4,076,000.00
5. BOHOL PROPERTY Brgy. Dampas, Tagbilaran City, Bohol	551 sq.m.	Residential Lots (2 Adjoining Lots)	1,488,000.00
6. CABANATUAN PROPERTY Brgy. Kalikid Sur (Cabu), Cabanatuan City	1,335 sq.m.	Residential Land	401,000.00
7. BATANGAS PROPERTY Lot 7 Block 2 Cobella Homes, Danaza, Tanauan, Batangas	137 sq.m.	Residential Lot	343,000.00
8. BACOLOD PROPERTY Pag-asa Street Extension, Brgy. Tangub, Bacolod City	220 sq.m.	Residential Land	341,000.00
9. PANGASINAN PROPERTY Brgy. Buenlag, Binmaley, Pangasinan	1,506 sq.m.	Residential Land	301,000.00

Conditions:
a) Winning bidders shall assume responsibility of paying any and/or all taxes and liens relative to the sale or transfer of the properties.
b) Official Bid forms, documents, Instruction to Bidders and details can be obtained during office hours from the Estate Development and Management Division located at the above-given address after paying to the Cashier a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00 only.
c) All Bids must be submitted to the Office of the Chairman - LIVECOR Bids and Awards Committee attention to the BAC Secretariat not later than 2:00 P.M of March 06, 2006.
d) The Livelihood Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formalities therein and to accept such bid as may be deemed advantageous to the Corporation.

Schedule of Pre-Bidding Conference will be on February 16, 2006, 2:00 P.M. at the Office of the Administrator's Conference Room, LIVECOR, 7/F One Corporate Plaza, 845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Legazpi Vill., Makati City.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Eduardo P. Sajonia - BAC Secretariat at tel. no. 817-0771/Cell no. 0921-2783769 or Ms. Gigi Buenaventura - Division Chief, Estate Development and Management at tel. no. 817-0439/ Cell 0917-5277897.

(Sgd.) E. ALEXIS G. SEVIDAL
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(PDI—Feb. 8 & 9, 2006)

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

What now, Hacienda Luisita?

STRIKING workers of Hacienda Luisita gather at the Cojuangco family-owned sugar estate to press management for higher wages and benefits. This photo was taken in November 2004.

JO CLEMENTE

By Jo Martinez-Clemente
Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City

IF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM implements its five-month action plan, Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac City will finally be distributed to farmer-beneficiaries in May.

Between the Cojuangco family-owned sugar estate and its farmers, however, are a host of issues that may take more than five months to resolve. Foremost of these concerns is the management's vow to "exhaust all legal avenues" to stop the hand-over.

"It is not so much as we don't want to give up the land. It is because the sanctity of the contract should be upheld," said Joey Romasanta, vice president for corporate affairs of the hacienda's managing firm Jose Cojuangco & Sons.

Romasanta was referring to the memorandum of agreement forged between Hacienda Luisita and the farmers in .1989 that awarded shares of stock, instead of land, to the farmers under the stock distribution option (SDO) program.

The Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) canceled the SDO in December last year, past halfway of a 30-year implementation period. It asked the DAR to redistribute the land to the beneficiaries.

Hacienda Luisita appealed the decision and asked the council to reconsider the SDO.

Last month, the farmers, through their lawyer Romeo Capulong, filed a motion opposing the appeal and asked the DAR to immediately implement the land awards. Citing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL), they said the decision of the council was immediately executory, regardless of pending legal motions.

Romasanta said the council had no jurisdiction over the issues. The agreement entered into by the hacienda and its farmers is a "perfected contract" that can be voided only by the courts and not by an administrative body like the PARC, he argued.

The SDO, he said, had been certified by the DAR as Hacienda Luisita's compliance with the CARL.

Noting the hardline stance taken by DAR on the issue, Romasanta said the hacienda had no option but to exhaust all legal avenues, such as filing the appeal and other cases before the Supreme Court or other judicial bodies.

Amid this legal tussle in Manila, how is Hacienda Luisita?

Volatile

Romasanta said it was not likely to plant sugarcane now due to uncertainties. "The situation is volatile and it is not wise to plant and spend millions [of pesos] when we do not know what will happen."

Until the issue is resolved, the land will not be productive, he added.

Not quite, say the farmers.

Inspired by their impending ownership of the land and empowered by the money they received from Hacienda Luisita as condition for settling the 13-month strike, members of the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu) are moving ahead to make the land useful.

In December last year, the union got P30 million worth of sugarcane in the fields as part of the settlement package. The farmers, however, had to cut and haul the crops at their own expense.

Lost crops

Farmer Joey Romero, of Barangay Mapalacsiao, lamented that he and the other members could not get all the sugarcane as some people had burned certain sections of the fields. He said about 20,000 tons of sugarcane had been burned, 30,000 more tons destroyed, and another 15,000 tons stolen.

Even then, the members started harvesting the canes on their own and have so far earned about P3 million for the union.

Tirso Cruz, a union director, said female members were paid P170 for every ton of sugarcane that they cut, while male members received P230 per ton that they cut and haul.

Groups of 10 to 15 workers had been formed to make work more efficient, Cruz said.

When the sugarcane is paid for by Hacienda Luisita, a certain amount is set aside for the union and the members are paid an average of P300 each. The amount is higher than their usual P194.50 daily rate with HLI, Cruz said.

Work teams

In Barangay Asturias, where 300 union members live, steward Lito Bais said they intended to make productive the 300 hectares of land they used to plant with sugarcane.

The area is good for sugarcane, *palay* and vegetables, Bais said. He said the farmers planned to expand their rice field from the three hectares of land they originally planted with the crop during the strike.

With the money the union now has, members have been encouraged to work in teams in the farms. Each group of 10 members will be assigned a four-hectare land and the union will pay for planting expenses that they will return after harvest.

Cruz said the groups could choose what to plant since they knew what was suitable in their areas. This will also ensure that the land will not be idle while their lawyers discuss and resolve legal issues with Hacienda Luisita, he said.

Contentious

Capulong said the three contentious issues that should be resolved dealt with the actual land area for distribution, the list of beneficiaries, and land valuation.

He said the rush for a piece of the pie was now going on. Some people have already fenced off as much as 20 has of land, he said.

DAR officials agree that identifying farmer-beneficiaries will be a tedious process. Alfredo Reyes, Tarlac agrarian reform officer, said a team tasked with checking and cross-checking various records and validating these in the field had been formed.

While he promised to hasten the team's work to meet the May target, Reyes said his office would exercise prudence and would be extra-cautious in its work to identify the rightful beneficiaries.

Historical research

The DAR, however, said the retrieval of documents, such as missing land titles and the checking of conflicting data entries were bottlenecks in their action plan, among other things.

Another team has been formed to research on the titling history of Hacienda Luisita, Reyes said.

In its application for agrarian reform coverage in 1987, Tarlac Development Corp. (Tadeco), which owns Hacienda Luisita, identified only 4,915.75 has of the more than 6,000 has it bought from the Spanish company Tabacalera in the 1950s.

But Capulong said the entire estate should be subjected to agrarian reform.

Proper accounting of what he described as the "missing 1,600 hectares" of land should be done because, he said, these were part of the original agricultural property.

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Government Honors Outstanding Private Recruitment and Manning Agencies

2005 Agency Performance Awards

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) annually bestow honor to outstanding private recruitment companies through the Agency Performance Awards.

The Top Performer Award and the Excellence Award are given to recruitment and manning agencies in recognition of their exemplary performance in promoting decent and quality overseas employment for Filipinos. The Award of Excellence is given to consistent Top Performer Awardees for their industry leadership, foreign exchange inward remittances, social awareness and responsibility. Special citations are also being given to agencies for achievements in the areas of deployment, foreign exchange generation, marketing and sustained efforts in the use of the electronic submission system or the e-Submission.

Since its inception in 1984, the institutionalization of the POEA's awards and incentives program pushed the overseas employment stakeholders to strive for excellence in their field. The awards night was held at the Manila Pavilion Hotel last January 31, 2006.

Government could cancel ABS-CBN license

From page A1

vestigations in the commission and you could be assured of an impartial probe or investigation," he said.

Solis said he could not speculate at this time "what penalty would have to be imposed because we would have to study first the report, evaluate the evidence, and find out the gravity. It depends on the gravity of the offense."

Solis said that the NTC would also have to consider the "public interest" in deciding what penalty to impose on the network, noting that it is one of the biggest media outlets in the country.

"We have to take in consideration, also, public interest. This is a TV station which is one of the largest TV stations. In fact, [it] has a nationwide coverage. We have to balance all these things," he said.

Only the Supreme Court

While under the administrative supervision of the Department of Transportation and Communication, it is independent as far as its regulatory functions are concerned and its decisions are appealable only and directly to the Supreme Court.

SOLIS: There's no bias against the Lopezes.

"All TV and radio stations get authorizations from us—whether it is a provisional authority, certificate of authority, or temporary permit—and all these authorizations carry with them certain responsibilities and duties," Solis said.

He said the commission would inquire whether ABS-CBN violated a 1985 NTC circular which requires TV networks "not to commit any act that would be detrimental to public health, public welfare or public safety."

"And there are also implementing rules of that circular which say that in special events like this, the organizer must make sure that it puts in place sufficient security measures and safeguards to protect the interest and safety of the public," Solis said.

He said that if it was determined that there was a violation of the circular, the parties would be called to a hearing and given due process.

"We will have to find out first the extent of culpability," Solis said. " It really depends on what is the culpability, what is the extent of participation of the parties complained of, including the network," he said.

Malacañang keeps distance

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government was bent on pursuing the case against those who would be held liable for the incident.

"It would be pitiful if we do not pursue this case just because they think it's all part of politics or just because those who died or suffered injuries were poor in life and should just be forgotten," Ermita said.

The House of Representatives will conduct its own investigation into the tragedy.

Party-list Representatives Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis in a resolution called for a "more thorough" probe into the root causes of the stampede.

"This tragedy should compel the national government to reexamine its flawed and inutile poverty alleviation programs that contribute to the neglect of the toiling masses," said Beltran.

Representatives Salacnib Baterina and Antonio Cuenco said the process must not be dictated upon by emotions.

Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan, chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), said one reason the people flocked to "Wowowee" was the "magnet of entertainment."

One of those who died was Trinidad de la Vega, a mother from Pigcawayan in North Cotabato. No one in her family had known she had gone to the game show.

Another fatality was Visitacion Argonza, 54, a widow who had hoped that winning a major prize on the show would enable her to stop working as a housemaid in Metro Manila, return home to Isabela province and start a small business.

Argonza's son, Willie Boy, said her mother and two friends had gone to the show for the raffle but her companions left after an hour of queuing at the gate.

His mother chose to stay—and was trampled to death. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Nash B. Maulana and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and PDI Research*

Lawyers eye class suit

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A GROUP OF LAWYERS YESTERDAY said they were ready to help the victims get justice, and that a class action suit could be one option.

Chair Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption said his group was gathering evidence and affidavits from the relatives of those who died and from those who were injured."

"A class suit will be more affordable than individual filing, especially because these people are very poor. Our lawyers will be providing legal assistance," Jimenez said.

In a class action suit, the cases would be heard by just one court instead of by different courts, which would be the case if the relatives chose to file individual cases.

"We are still evaluating and building up information for a possible class suit," he said.

VACC chief legal counsel Pete Principe said the option of class action was "premature" for now.

Principe urged the Senate to make the law harsher.

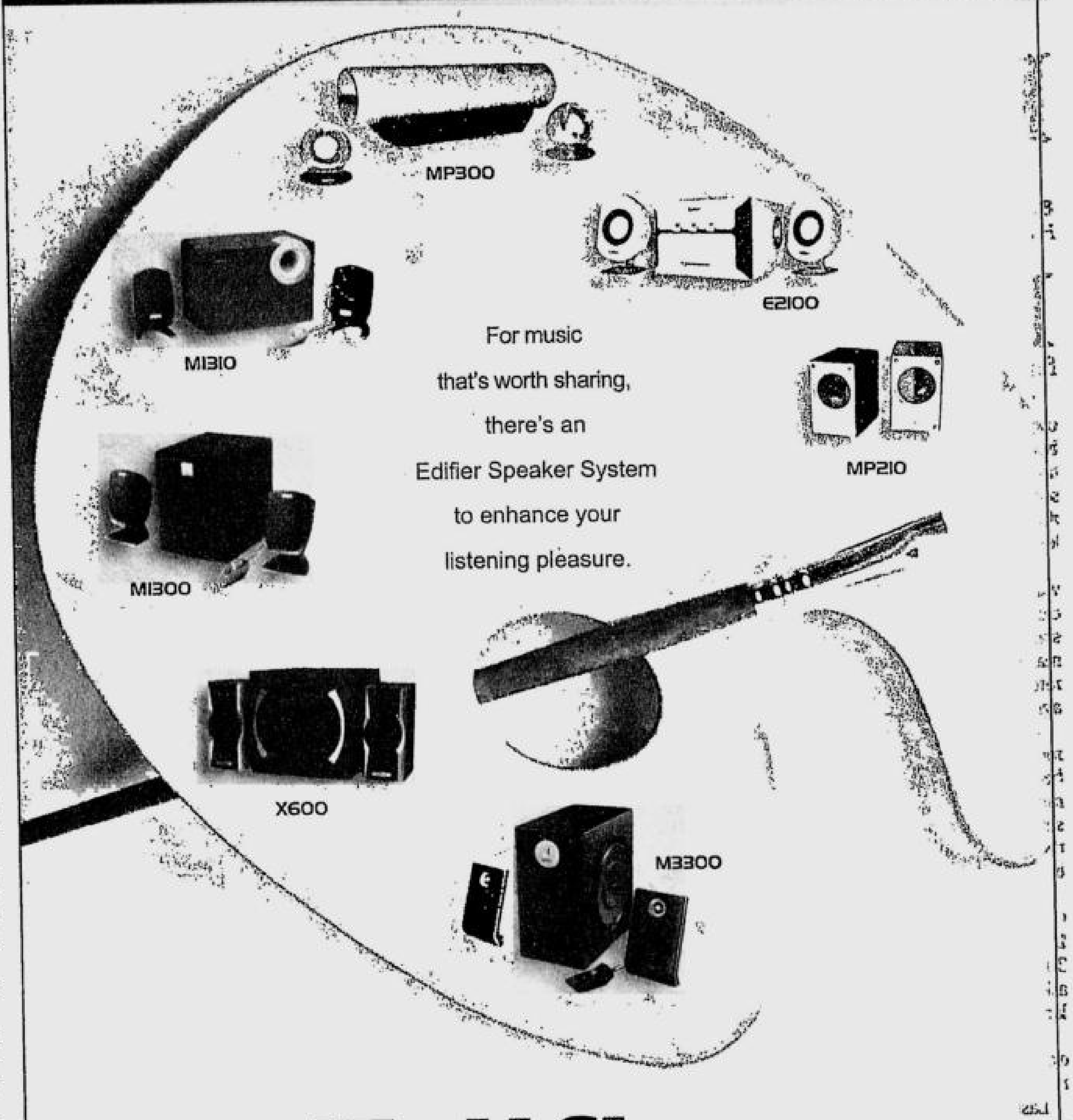
"There should be a heavier penalty," Principe said, adding that organizers of the event could be held liable for "reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide."

The offense is punishable by a few years imprisonment and a P50,000 fine.

Lawyers Leonard de Vera, Dennis Funa and Jay de Castro have also volunteered to help.

VACC urged victims to call its hotline 892-7323 or 0916-486-2588 for coordination.

IMAGINE THE SOUND IN FULL COLOR



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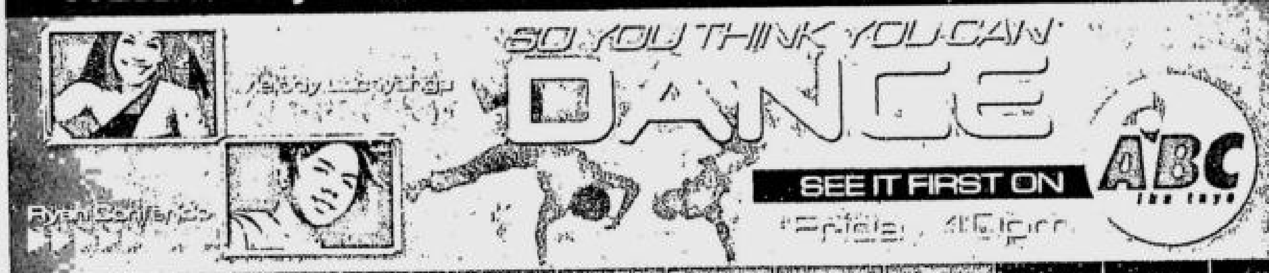
INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Watch Pinoy Power in America's Hottest Dance Challenge!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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	American Idol 5		Billboard On-Air	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Only You	Vietnam Rose	Forbidden Love	S.O.C.O.			Insider
AXN		David Blaine Street Magic		Las Vegas		When Animals Attack		Lost		24		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	CSI: Miami (Season II)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinema One		Mahal Kita Walang Iba				Kahit Isang Saglit				Sige Subukan Mo			Persona	Agila Sa Puting Bato (9:15 PM)				Booba	
Cinemax			Breaking The Silence (3:20 PM)			Darkman II: The Return Of Durant			Just Cause (6:20 PM)			The Snow Walker			Beyond Betrayal (9:45 PM)				Guarding Tess
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Discovery Channel		Zero Hour		Coming Home From Space		Space Shuttle Countdown To Comeback		Wild Weather		Wild Discovery		Hour China		Becoming A Man		A Haunting		Secrets To Survival	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		2004 BCA Open 8-Ball C'ships Finals		Pool Mosconi Cup 2001		Winter X Games Classix		Motorsport Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool Masters '05 UK		Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool Masters '05 UK		Motorsport Asia	Pool/ Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Average Joe		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Veronica Mars		Beauty & The Geek		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Marriage Works in Christ	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Faith In Motion	Adventures In Odyssey	EWTN Original Productions	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Defending Life	EWTN Gallery	In The Heart Of The Church	Mother Angelica Live Classics		One In Their Hearts	Catholic Social Teaching	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15 PM)	Carpenter's Shop	Our Father's Plan	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royale Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	Le Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Sugo	Etheria	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Family Law III		H2O (3:50 PM)			Who's The Boss? II	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		While I Was Gone			Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Strong Medicine
HBO				The Land Before Time X: The Great Longneck Migration			Sky Captain And The World Of Tomorrow				Ike Countdown To D-Day			Taking Lives			And Starring Pancho Villa As Himself (10:15PM)		
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EZ Shop		TBA		Golden Moments			Japan Video Topics	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Heat		Velocity		X-Men	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70's Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Primetime Glick	Chappelle Show
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Life & Style		Intimate Portrait		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines	Jams	Whatever Things	MTV Hits		The 70's House	Pop Inc		MTV Hits		VH1 Driven		Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	MYXLOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Hunter Hunted		Interpol Investigates		Science Times		Top 6 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Hunter Hunted		Interpol Investigates	
NBN		Value Vision		Value Vision		Teledyaryo	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Talk Ko 'To		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Krimen		Bantay OCW With Susan K.	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Zoey 101 (R)/ Grown Ups Viewers Choice					As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			The Onyok Velasco Story				Magdalena [illegible]				Kung Kasalanan Man				Mano-Mano				Takaw Tingin
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		[illegible] Hungry Pinoy	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Hotelier	All In	Laugh To Laugh And Kuli	Pusong Wagi		News On Q	Balikbayan		MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	As Told By Ginger	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Makeover		Newswatch Now	Keep Up The Good Work		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kaligayahan		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports		2006 Adelaide Open Finals Serra vs. Malisse			GWS 05-2006	FIVB World Champ Cup Men's Event: Bra vs. Egy			NBA Jam	Sagupaan	Boxing: Reyes vs. Castillo	Sportsdesk					Sportsdesk	Denmark Open Mixed Doubles Finals	
Sports Plus		ACC Basketball Louisville @ Miami				World Poker Tour 2				NBA Game Lakers @ Dallas					NBA Game Clippers @ New York				
Star Movies		Inward (3:05 PM)			The Age Of Innocence (4:45 PM)					White Fang (7:05 PM)				Hollow Man				One Fine Day (10:50 PM)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		American Idol 2006		Star News Asia	Friends (Series 10)	American Idol 2006		Medical Investigation		Smallville		Friends (Series 10)	American Idol 2006
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Spirits	Wazzup Wazzup	The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI (8:20 PM)	Life As We Know It (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Gabby outraged by opinion of probe chief

From page A1

LOPEZ III
REPORT
PRODUCERS

TV GRAB

"I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY," ABS-CBN chair/CEO Eugenio Lopez Jr. declares in a statement over the family-owned ANC cable network but takes exception to the report of Task Force Ultra.

would be able to get in.

This piece of information cropped up on Sunday in the fact-finding inquiry conducted by Task Force Ultra at the Quezon City office of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

The decision was made at a meeting of the "Wowowee" staff on Friday afternoon: That a total of P200,000 would be raffled off to 40 people in order to appease those who would not be accommodated inside the arena.

"So they (the people outside) won't feel bad—because they really came to the venue, some [staying] more than a day—we [decided to] give P5,000 to 40 winners," Marilou Almaden, head of the ABS-CBN business unit, told the task force during the initial hearing on Sunday night.

Almaden said the announcement was repeatedly made over the public address system starting at around 2 a.m. Saturday. She said the production staff had felt it was the right decision to speak candidly to the people about the arena's capacity of only 17,000.

"If we make them expect that they can all go in, the dynamics of the people there [was that] the more they would try to get in," Almaden said.

The information that not all could be accommodated inside the arena was directed at the people in front of the barricades, who had not fallen in line.

But it failed to produce the desired effect, Almaden said.

"There were cheers, but nobody moved. They would rather stay," she said.

Restless crowd

Almaden said the crowd started to get restless after midnight, with some trying to jump over the barriers set up in front of the gate on St. Martin's Street. (There were two entrances to the show, one on St. Martin's Street and the other on Captain Javier Street, where the stampede took place.)

"At that point, our concern was to stop them from pushing. Because the children [were] already crying and old women [were there]," she said.

Almaden said she spoke with a police officer, one Captain Azuela, at 4 a.m. Saturday.

She quoted one of her staff members as saying that Azuela was worried because the crowd was getting rowdy, and that he was sending in additional men.

Asked by a task force member if there were efforts by organizers and security officers to release pressure "from the back" of the crowd, Almaden said: "That was why when Captain Azuela came there and I was introduced to him, my very first words to him were 'Thank you.' It was reported to me that he felt the crowd [was becoming] rowdy, and that he [had] sent [for more] people.

Another venue

"So we were hoping that the [police reinforcements] would be there any time, before we open the gate or during the opening of the gate."

Almaden also told the task force that the production staff had tried to look for another venue, and considered the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

But another activity was scheduled that Friday at the coliseum, and there would have been no time to set up the network equipment for the "Wowowee" show the next day, she said.

Almaden said that as far as she knew, ABS-CBN discussed with the management of the PhilSports Arena the possibility of allowing people onto the football field, and not just the bleachers.

But PhilSports officials were reluctant to grant this: "It was part of the negotiations, sir, but Ultra had concerns [over] the new track ... They said it was new," she said. *Reports from Marinel R. Cruz and Luige A. del Puerto*

'Treated like animals'

From page A1

rity preparations might be held liable.

"It is up to the Department of Justice to determine the identities of those who may have criminal liability based on the task force's findings," he said.

"No, I am not afraid of ABS-CBN. We just want to protect the reputation of those who may be unduly implicated," Corpus said when reporters raised the possible influence of the TV network over the task force.

Regis Puno is the legal counsel of ABS-CBN. His brother, Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, has just been appointed secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Governments.

Owners' liability

At a news briefing where he received the task force's report, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the civil liability could go as high as the owners of ABS-CBN.

"The employer always has liability in actions for damages," Gonzalez said.

Asked if this would include the Lopez family, which owns the network, he said: "Depending on the investigation, it can go as high as anybody."

Asked further if he was not cowed by the prospect of going after one of the country's most influential families, Gonzalez said it would be "just unfortunate if [the case] lands on somebody's backyard."

"We will pursue it," he said.

ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III said that while he would hold himself "accountable" if the justice system came to that conclusion, his family was outraged at Corpus' statement that the crowd outside the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City had been "treated like animals." *(See story on Page A1.)*

The early-morning stampede claimed 74 lives and injured about 500 people.

Earlier, Gonzalez tagged "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame as among those who could be charged with "reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries."

He said the victims may also initiate action for civil damages.

Names

While Corpus did not name names, the task force's report showed that the fact-finding team had identified ABS-CBN's head of security, the production manager, assistant location manager and associate producer of "Wowowee," as well as "other ABS-CBN executives who may have been involved directly or indirectly with the preparation or planning of the event" as those responsible for the lack of contingency plans for the "extra 10,000 people."

The report identified the ABS-CBN security chief as Rene Luspo and the production manager as Marilou Almaden.

"Not having any contingency plans for the extra 10,000 people that the network expected to come borders on irresponsible and incompetent management of the situation at best, to criminal negligence and endangerment leading to the loss of life at worst," the fact-finding team said.

It said ABS-CBN had expected a crowd of 30,000 but that the venue could only accommodate 17,000, or 20,000 at most.

No lessons learned

The fact-finding team gave a nine-point recommendation to prevent the occurrence of a similar incident.

Corpus said, however, that ABS-CBN appeared not to have learned anything about handling huge crowds.

"It seems that the organizers have yet to learn their lesson. On two separate incidents, specifically the F4 concert in Manila last 2003 and the 'Magandang Tanghali Bayan' show [on] Jan. 19, 2000, inside the ABS-CBN compound itself, a similar stampede also transpired and there were injuries," he said, reading from the report.

He added: "It is this prior knowledge and experience of these incidents that should have prompted the head of security of the network to be more vigilant, more prepared and more aware of the possibilities that could transpire in such conditions where a tired, impatient and potentially unruly crowd could turn violent.

"This past experience of ABS-CBN seems to not have taught the management ... any lesson."

Lack of coordination

The report also said there was "an obvious lack of coordination" between the organizers and relevant government agencies.

It said that while ABS-CBN had earlier sought the assistance of the offices of the mayor and chief of police of Pasig, "neither office was invited to any of the organizers' production meetings."

In a letter to Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio on Jan. 17, "Wowowee" assistant location manager Rey Cayabyab promised to deploy 60 security guards, but also asked for the deployment of policemen, traffic enforcers and barangay watchmen to the area.

"We believe that we cannot handle the peace and order alone," Cayabyab said in his letter.

But the report said: "Neither office was made aware of the possible implications of the venue not having enough capacity to accommodate the possible attendees. No coordination meeting with the various government agencies was conducted," it said.

Possible trigger

As to the question of what exactly triggered the deadly stampede, the report said that from the accounts of survivors, "the most often quoted circumstance" was "the point where an ABS-CBN staff [member] named Mel Feliciano announced to the crowd gathered at the Lower Ringside Passage (LRP) gate that the first 300 people in line beneath the covered walkway along Captain Javier Street would be chosen to participate in the 'Pera o Bayong' portion" of the show.

It added: "He further excited the crowd by saying that these 300 people would have the chance to win prizes ranging from P10,000 to P20,000 up to P50,000.

"The announcement subsequently incited the people who were outside the official queue ... to push their way into the already jampacked queue, hoping that they could squeeze in among the first 300...

"At this point, the network's staff closed the gates, hoping to control the sudden deluge of people wanting to be the 'first 300' in line...

"Whether by the pressure exerted on the gate itself or whether the guards finally relented to open the gate again, when the gate was flung open, the crowd surged forward with tremendous speed and force.

"Coupled with the steep decline and the uneven surface of the road in the LRP gate (which is normally used only for vehicular traffic), this eventually caused those in front of the onrushing mob to stumble and fall, [which] culminated in the stampede that caused the majority of the deaths and injuries."

No contingency measures

Corpus said the deaths and injuries could have been fewer had contingency measures been in place.

He said ambulances were at the ready, but since there were no contingency measures, production manager Almaden had "to call head office before [it] could call the emergency units."

"That's a crucial delay," Corpus said. "[The delay] was for several minutes. In an emergency, every minute counts."

The report quoted Luspo as saying that the security personnel were concentrated at the bigger St. Martin Gate.

"Hence, per [his] testimony, he allocated 77 out of his total force of 104 security personnel at this location. This left him with only 12 of his security personnel to man the entrance at the LRP gate," the report said.

It also said both Luspo and Almaden were at the St. Martin Gate.

"With both lead officers and the show's production manager at the St. Martin Gate, this ultimately meant that only junior officers, if any, were probably manning the other gate," it said.

'Guests at a party'

The report said that with the people swelling to the tens of thousands, the organizers should have provided the necessary facilities.

It said some of those in line should have earlier been allowed into the venue.

And having been told that the PhilSports officials would not allow the people into the track area, the organizers should have looked for other ways to accommodate the swelling crowd, the report said.

It added: "One simply does not invite 500 guests to his/her birthday party or wedding reception knowing fully well that [the] venue of choice can only accommodate half of the number." *With a report from Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-312 (2)	256 units Document Scanner with Bundled Software and PC	P 26,332,160.00	LBP Funds
2006-008	1 lot Supply of Technical Supervision, Labor, Materials, Tools and Equipment for the rehabilitation of the ventilation system of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and misting of the STP, complete with supply of odor and bacteria neutralizer for one (1) year.	4,500,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on February 22, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon payment of a non-refundable **fee of P3,000.00 and P1,000.00 for ITB Nos. 2005-312 (2) and 2006-008, respectively.**

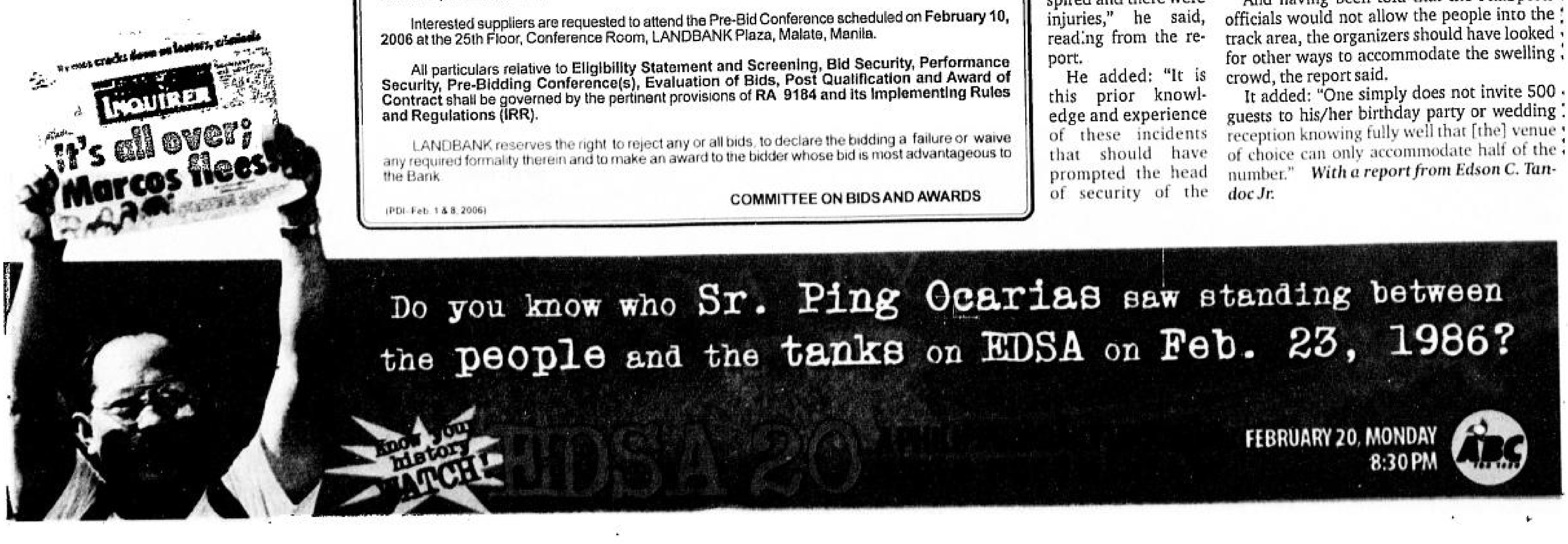
Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **February 10, 2006** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI-Feb. 1 & 8, 2006)


Do you know who Sr. Ping Ocarias saw standing between the people and the tanks on EDSA on Feb. 23, 1986?

FEBRUARY 20, MONDAY
8:30 PM

BRIG. GEN. Richard Mills offers the American flag to Apple, wife of Filipino-American pilot Ruel Garcia, who was killed in combat in Iraq last month. REM ZAMORA

White roses rain at pilot's burial in Valenzuela City

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A FILIPINO-AMERICAN US ARMY pilot whose plane was shot down in Iraq was buried yesterday in Valenzuela City with full military honors.

As Chief Warrant Officer Ruel Garcia, 34, of Wahiawa, Hawaii was laid to rest at the Polo Memorial Park, a helicopter dropped white rose petals and leaves, on the mourners, among them, his wife Apple, his father Rosendo, and mother Cynthia.

Also present were US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Paul Jones and Brig. Gen. Richard Mills, commanding general of the US military's special operations command in Korea, Garcia's former commander.

Garcia was killed on Jan. 16 when Iraqi insurgents shot down his AH-64 Apache helicopter in Taji, Iraq. He was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division based in Fort Hood, Texas.

He received posthumously the Bronze Star, the fourth highest US military award for gallantry in action, as well as the Purple Heart and the Air Medal.

Garcia was born in Obando, Bulacan on Aug. 24, 1971. He graduated with a degree in electrical engineering before moving to the US in 1987. He entered the US Air Force in 1992 where he served for four years and then switched to the Army to attend helicopter flight school. *With Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Manila girds for safe kissfest

By Tina G. Santos and Jocelyn R. Uy

WISHING TO AVOID A REPEAT OF THE Saturday stampede at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) which claimed 74 lives, organizers of a kissing festival met with National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Vidal Querol yesterday to map out security measures.

Tens of thousands of couples are expected to troop to Roxas Boulevard this coming Saturday for the 3rd Lovapalooza, an outdoor event where they will kiss for about 10 seconds in celebration of Valentine's Day.

"We talked about the security and crowd control management and brainstormed on how we could cope with untoward incidents that might arise during the event," Querol said over the phone yesterday.

He added that about 100 to 500 policemen will be deployed along the boulevard, along with bomb-sniffing dogs, secret marshals, detectives and crowd control personnel to secure those attending the event.

"One thing good about it is that they already held two Lovapalooza events in the past and they were all very successful," Querol said. He noted that the event would be held outdoors with no pressure points. "No tickets will be issued and there are no gates where crowds can converge in big numbers," he added. The Manila City government also ordered the Manila Police District to deploy 100 policemen to protect the crowd along the boulevard, including the Rajah Sulayman Park, which will be the center of the celebration.

"We were specifically directed to intensify security measures by deploying more security officers, even exceeding the number of security personnel we had provided during the previous years when the city hosted the same event," said Lorrybel Mescallado of the Manila Tourism and Cultural Affairs Bureau.

"The Ultra stampede does not and should not prevent the city from hosting events where a huge crowd is expected. Sure, it gives us headaches but it was all worth it. We just have to be careful and implement preemptive and preventive measures," Mayor Lito Atienza said.

More than 5,000 couples smooched for 10 seconds for the Lovapalooza two years ago, placing the country in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most number of couples that kissed at the same time.

"This year, it's no longer aimed at setting a record. We would like to gather couples to show their affection on Valentine's Day," added Atienza. The Western District Traffic Enforcement Office will divert traffic from several portions of Roxas Boulevard for Saturday's event.

Meanwhile, the Pasig City government said it will be stricter in issuing permits to big events in the city after the Ultra stampede.

"We will issue permits only if those requesting it will provide us with a detailed security plan. There should be a master plan to control the crowd," said Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio. Though his office issued a permit for the event, Eusebio blamed the show's organizers, saying the security they provided was not enough. *With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

METROBRIEFS

New partnership

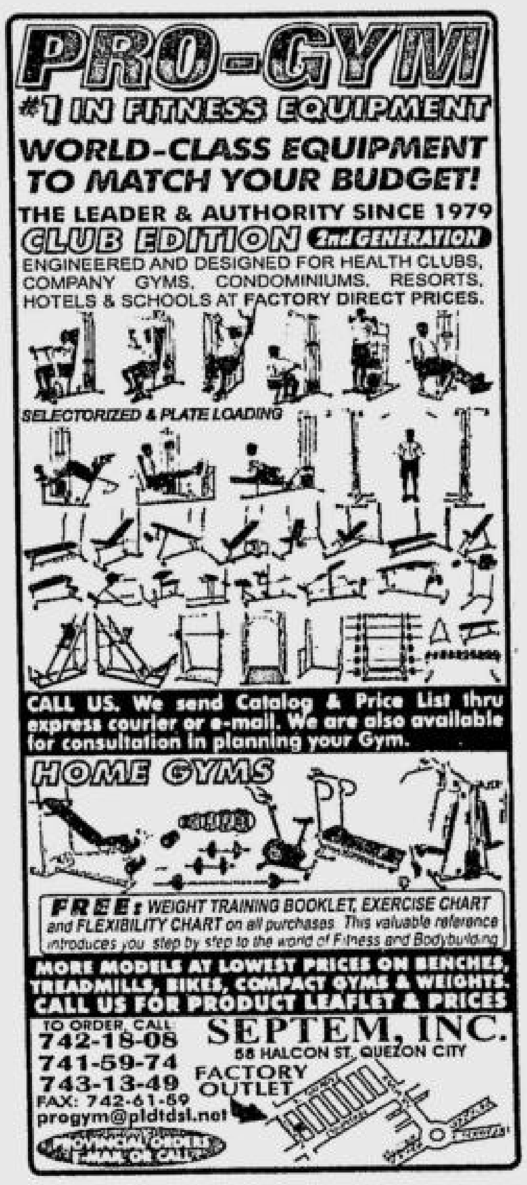
SOSYAL - MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES !

JUNKSHOP operators have become the allies of the Quezon City government in its solid waste management program. Under this partnership, junkshops will be converted into barangay Materials Recovery Facilities. They will participate actively in the city's waste management program through a more organized and standardized garbage recycling system. The city's environmental protection and waste management department (EPWMD) has already started a series of consultative workshops for junkshop operators to educate them on environment laws and the city's sanitation policies. At present, there are 318 registered junkshops in Quezon City, according to the local business permits and licensing office. The junkshops process a total of 333,615.42 kilograms of solid waste per day, representing 20.32 percent of all garbage in the city.

DJ Yap

Alabastro lecture at UE

DR. ESTRELLA F. Alabastro, secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), will discuss "The Vision and Plans of the DOST," at 10 a.m. today at the conference hall of the University of the East Manila campus. Alabastro, a registered chemical engineer and career executive service officer, was first appointed as DOST secretary in March 2001 and was reappointed on Aug. 30, 2004. She is the first woman to get the DOST portfolio. Her previous designations include being the department's undersecretary for research and development, executive director of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development, chair of the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines, chair of the Asean Committee on Science and Technology, and project director of the OECF-World Bank-funded Engineering and Science Education Project. Alabastro's lecture is one of many activities lined up by UE in celebration of its 60th foundation day, which will culminate in September. For details, please call 735-5471 local 358 or 735-8533, or visit www.ue.edu.ph.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Laoag's 10th PAMULINAWEN FESTIVAL

marks a season of harvest

If the country's other regions have their colorful festivities like "Sinulog", "Ati-Atihan", "Panagbenga", etc., Ilocos in northern Philippines prides on having its own famous PAMULINAWEN FESTIVAL of Laoag City, a month-long merrymaking activities from February 1 to 28.

The Honorable Laoag City Mayor MICHAEL V. FARIÑAS has adopted "Parambak iti Parabur" (Celebrating a Season of Harvest) as this year's all-embracing theme for the celebration of Pamulinawen Festival 2006.

Laoag was founded as a parish in 1580 under the patronage of Saint William the Hermit, whose feast is celebrated on the 10th of February every year.

Former DILG now DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes will grace the main fiesta celebration on February 10 as Guest Speaker and Crowning Guest during the Search and Coronation Pageant of Miss Laoag City Pamulinawen International to be held at the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena at 7:00 P.M.

Commenced a decade ago, this annual festival immortalizes the Ilocano tradition and cultural heritage of pomp and fanfare incorporating old folk songs, dances and ethnic arts of Ilocano ancestors.

It depicts the almost forgotten traits, values and characters of the frugal, godly and adventurous Ilocanos steeped in forbearance, hardwork and endurance which are unquestionably today's rallying shibboleth to attain further unity, reconciliation, peace and prosperity for the whole Ilocandia, not just Laoageños.

How this festival got the moniker Pamulinawen is clearly attributed to the popular Iluko folk song "Pamulinawen, Pusok Indengam Man" It's lyric portrays a lively Ilocana maiden whose callous heart is no easy prey to suave suitors.

Hence, her heart for love is "Pamulinawen", meaning stony-hearted or not easily swayed, one outstanding trait of a Maria Clara-type woman which is now a rarity in this Computer Age, so to speak.

The Pamulinawen later came into the forefront as Ilocos Norte's "Mother" of all festivals. At least the Laoageños had proven, to all and sundry, their firm advocacy for cooperation, harmony and volunteerism by celebrating the annual City Fiesta honoring the Patron Saint William The Hermit, whose propitiation makes Laoag a safe place to live in.

Since Day One of the fiesta, thousands of revellers including many balikbayans, local and foreign tourists, begin to flock to this so-called "Sunshine City" (Laoag means Light in Iluko) in the North.

Among the major daily activities include the Dulang's Biggest Empanada, Calesa show and Laoag City Circle of Hawaii night (February 8), Pamulinawen Grand Parade, United Laoageños of Hawaii night (February 9), Holy Mass, Comedia Ilocana, Talugading Street Pageantry and Miss Laoag City Pamulinawen International 2006 Pageant night (February 10), Delubyo Day/Concert, Horse Race and United Laoageños Mutual Aid Association of San Francisco night (February 11), Local Government Unit/City Government night (February 12), LARTAGE or Laoag Retired Teachers and Government Employees Cultural Presentation (February 13), Dental Mission (February 14), Teatro Maestro night (February 15), Lam-ang and Komedia (February 16), Night of the Champions (February 17), Shootfest PINS (February 18-19), Mobile Passport Services (February 18-19), Josefa Llanes Escoda: Talang Marilag (February 18), Bike Weekend (February 24-26) and Arangkada 2006 (February 25).

Also top crowd drawers are the Agro-Industrial Fair at the Laoag City Central School compound and the Carnival Shows at the Padsan Riverbed below the Gilbert Bridge.

Meanwhile, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has commended the efforts of the City Government of Laoag headed by Mayor Fariñas to preserve the country's cultural heritage. "I welcome this year's Pamulinawen Festival as a showcase of the customs and traditions of your people and their artistry and ingenuity," said Mrs. Arroyo, whose grandfather, a Macaraeg, was an Ilocano from Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, Laoag City's most proximate northern municipal neighbor.

The President added: "Our government appreciates your achievements of transforming your city into a model community. May this occasion serve as an opportune time for the progressive and peace-loving people of Laoag to launch more worthy undertakings that will sustain the rapid pace of your development." (Jun R. Guiang)

WELCOME TO SUNSHINE
LAOAG
Dumanon Kayo!
MICHAEL V. FARIÑA
City Mayor

MESSAGE

Warm Greetings!

PARAMBAK ITI PARABUR, CELEBRATING A SEASON OF HARVEST!

With this theme of the Pamulinawen Festival Year X, we focus on the good times and the gifts that the Almighty has so graciously bestowed upon our city. Admittedly, there were hard times, but all things considered, I honestly believe that Laoag City has been blessed.

The city budget is an indication of this blessing. In 2004, the amount spent for the benefit of Laoageños was P 242 M. This increased to P 272 M in 2005. In the ensuing year, this is projected to reach P 304 M. Infrastructure projects to the tune of P 40 M were carried out last year. Several heavy and light equipment with a total value of P 10 M were also purchased. All these we thankfully received and deem to be a part of our blessings.

Equally significant are the countless awards, citations and certificates of appreciations received from various government and non-government organizations, such as the Department of Tourism as one of the BEST TOURIST DESTINATIONS and, the National Police Commission as one of the MOST PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY CITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES. The ALIWAN FIESTA GRAND NATIONAL FLOAT COMPETITION AWARD; the CHAMPIONSHIPS in the TRAVEL MART BEST BOOTH COMPETITION; and the CHRISTMASTERPIECE BAYANIHAN SILVER AWARD are but a few of the other honors.

Even your humble servant had his share of blessings. He has been conferred with the 2005 APOLINARIO MABINI AWARD for the LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF THE YEAR and the BEST LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE AWARD conferred by the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the Bureau of Fire Protection during their Annual Recognition Day. He also has the distinction of being the only City Mayor from the Philippines to speak at the World Cities Summit on Service Industries held in Wuxi, China.

For all these harvests, we are truly grateful to God and to our patron saint, St. William the Hermit, for his intercession on our behalf. We therefore dedicate this celebration of thanksgiving to them even as we pray for more blessings to come.

To all of you, my fellow Laoageños and our esteemed guests, let us all join hands not only in these celebrations but, perhaps more important, in working together, along with our Creator and St. William, to make our aspirations and dreams come true. Together, let us MAKE IT HAPPEN!

HAPPY FIESTA!

Michael V. Fariñas
City Mayor

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

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Jeepneys to cut fares by ₱.50 starting Feb. 10

By Clarissa S. Batino

SOME 40,000 JEEPNEYS IN METRO MANILA will cut fares by 50 centavos from Feb. 10 to 17 to offer the public some form of relief amid increasing commodity prices, according to transport groups and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

From Friday this week to Friday next week, commuters will only pay a minimum jeepney fare of P7 instead of P7.50.

The temporary fare cut is a special feature in the celebration of the first-ever Jeepney Week in Metro Manila.

The 50-centavo fare cut may become permanent in March if diesel prices stabilize at about P32 a liter, said LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista.

But jeepney groups said that if diesel prices hit P35 a liter, they may ask for a P1 to P1.50 increase in minimum fares.

Extension

Vigor Mendoza, spokesperson and lawyer for the transport groups, said the temporary discount could be extended but it would depend on whether oil companies would give discounts or at least hold off any price hike in diesel.

"We were informed that oil companies may raise diesel prices by P2 a liter in the coming weeks due to increasing world oil prices," said Mendoza. "If this happens, the transport group would have to act."

Sources said the price of diesel would go up anew by 50 centavos at the close of the week.

New prices

By March, however, oil prices are expected to go down and the price of diesel would stabilize at the P32-a-liter level.

Bautista said she had asked transport groups if they could help ease the burden of the riding public, considering that when the LTFRB approved fare increases in June 2005 for jeeps and buses, the threshold rate for diesel was P34 a liter.

Minimum fare

In June last year, jeeps and buses in Metro Manila raised their minimum fare by P2. Jeeps now charge P7.50 for the first four kilometers and P1.25 for every additional kilometer.

Metro buses collect P8 for the first five kilometers plus P1.75 for every additional km.

The price of diesel was about P26 a liter when the P2 fare hike was approved last year.

The fuel now used by many in the public transport sector costs more than P32 a liter.

Participants

Jeepney groups that will participate in the fare discount are the Federation of Drivers and Jeepney Operators of the Philippines or Fejodap, the Makati Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association (Mjoda), and the Alliance of Transport Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines or Altodap, and Pasang Masda.

The Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston) did not sign the statement issued jointly by the jeepney groups.

However, sources said its members would also give out discounts.

Only one

Bautista said of the transport groups, only the jeepneys responded to the government's request for a fare cut.

Mendoza said that every liter increase in diesel from P26 a liter meant losses of P30 a day for public utility vehicle drivers and operators.

"If ever, we want any fare hike increase to happen during the summer so that the public can adjust to the new fares," said the lawyer.

Hotheaded cop lands in jail

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A POLICEMAN SPENT HIS 27TH BIRTHDAY in jail yesterday after he killed a man during a traffic dispute in Tondo, Manila.

Police arrested PO1 Joel Pelayo, of the Manila Police District (MPD) after he shot Bryan Cruz, 23, of 2604 Juan Luna St., Tondo on Monday.

SPO4 Danny Vidad of the MPD Homicide Section said that Pelayo was driving his scooter at around 3:15 p.m. on Monday when he got caught in a traffic jam on Juan Luna St.

A heated argument took place when Cruz, who was riding a bicycle, tried to overtake Pelayo, according to Vidad.

Grim end

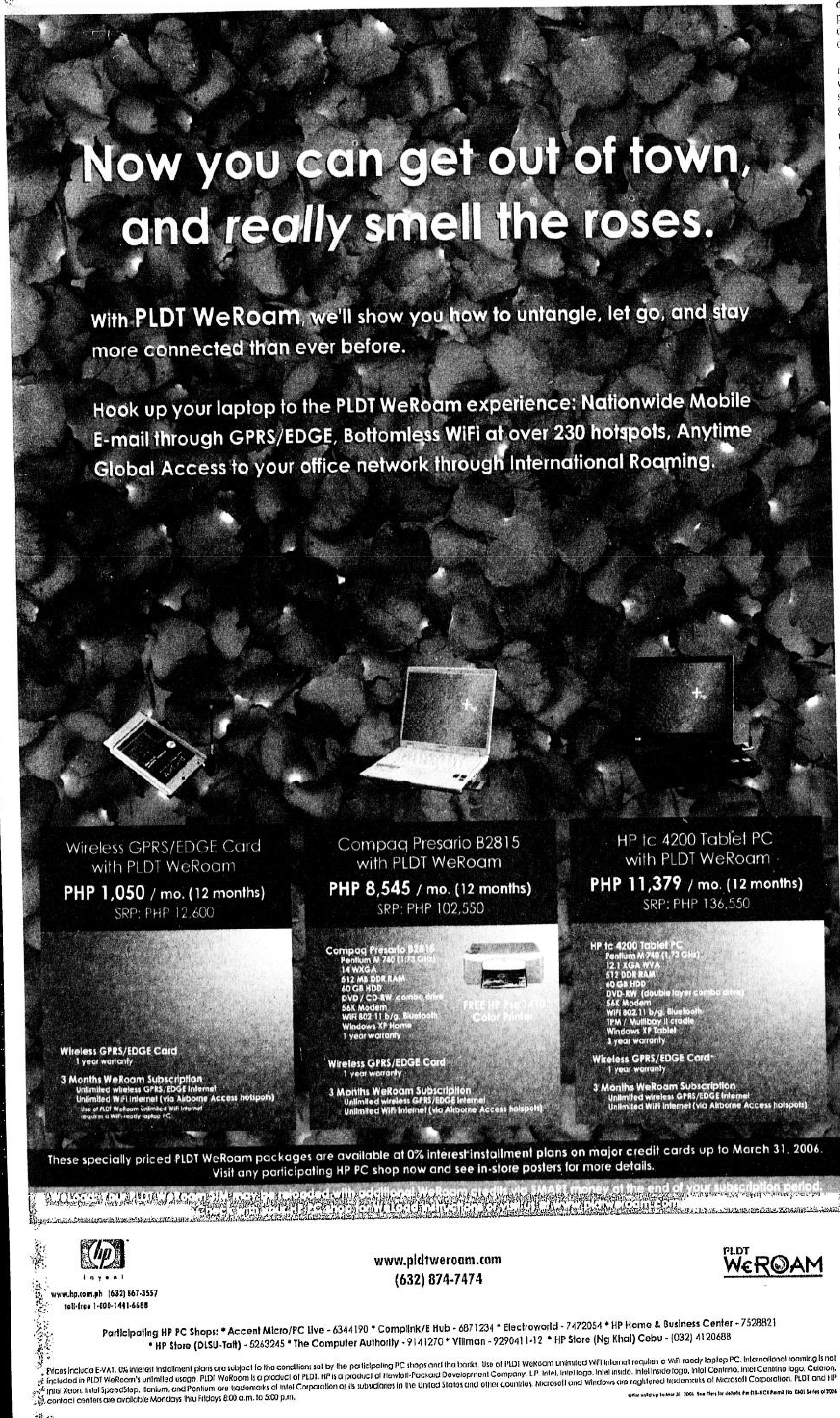
The two traded blows but the fight ended when the policeman took out an unlicensed .45 caliber pistol and shot the victim four times, Vidad added.

Cruz was rushed to the Diosdado Macapagal Memorial Medical Center in Caloocan City where he was declared dead on arrival.

Policemen assigned at the precinct located near the crime scene immediately arrested the suspect.

Pelayo was brought later to the MPD headquarters for questioning.

Vidad said they would be filing charges of murder and illegal possession of a firearm against the policeman.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Giants, Bulls begin Finals showdown

By June Navarro

GREGORIO: We're the underdogs.

THE BATTLE FOR THE TOP PRIZE SHOULD provide enough of a motivation. Still, both Purefoods and Red Bull are snatching inspiration from everywhere they can.

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:40 p.m.—Air21 vs Barangay Ginebra
7:35 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull

From pre-championship statements, to head-to-head records to underdog labels, the Giants and the Bulls are stockpiling on motivation as they go into Game 1 of the San Mig-PBA Fiesta Conference championship series today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Giants are the prohibitive underdogs in the best-of-seven series, somehow validating Red Bull gunner Lordy Tugade's indirect declaration that the Bulls will go into the series as the favorites.

"We're definitely the underdogs and we are taking to heart what Tugade had said that whoever wins in the Ginebra-Red Bull series, has an advantage," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio of his second championship stint after capturing the 2002 Governors Cup with the Giants.

In an era when the underdog label is a sought-after commodity during pressure-packed situations, it was refreshing for coach Yeng Guiao to concede the label to Purefoods and not retract any part of Tugade's statement.

The Bulls, after all, have enough motivation to fire them up.

Swept by the Giants in the elimination round, the Bulls are making a 0-2 record against the Giants, their inspiration.

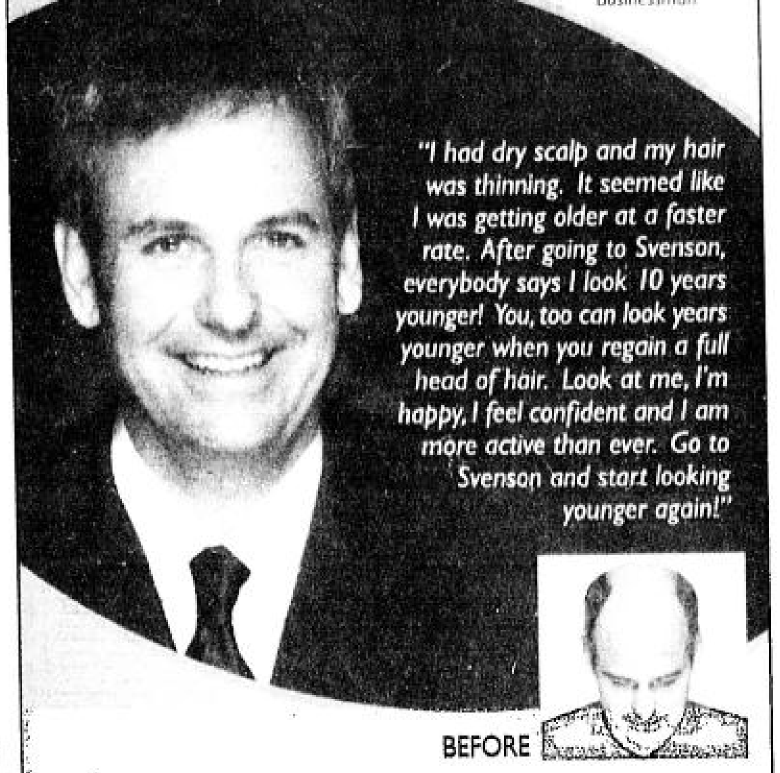
GUIAO: Our two earlier losses to Purefoods could motivate us.

"If the underdog tag and what Lordy had said might motivate them to play better, maybe our two losses to Purefoods could work the same for us," said Guiao.

Tugade also has a personal motivation. After emerging as one of the heroes of Red Bull's conquest of the popular Ginebra squad in the semifinals, several unidentified Kings fans

GIANTS/ A22

BALDNESS?
Not For Me!
- William Balliett
Businessman



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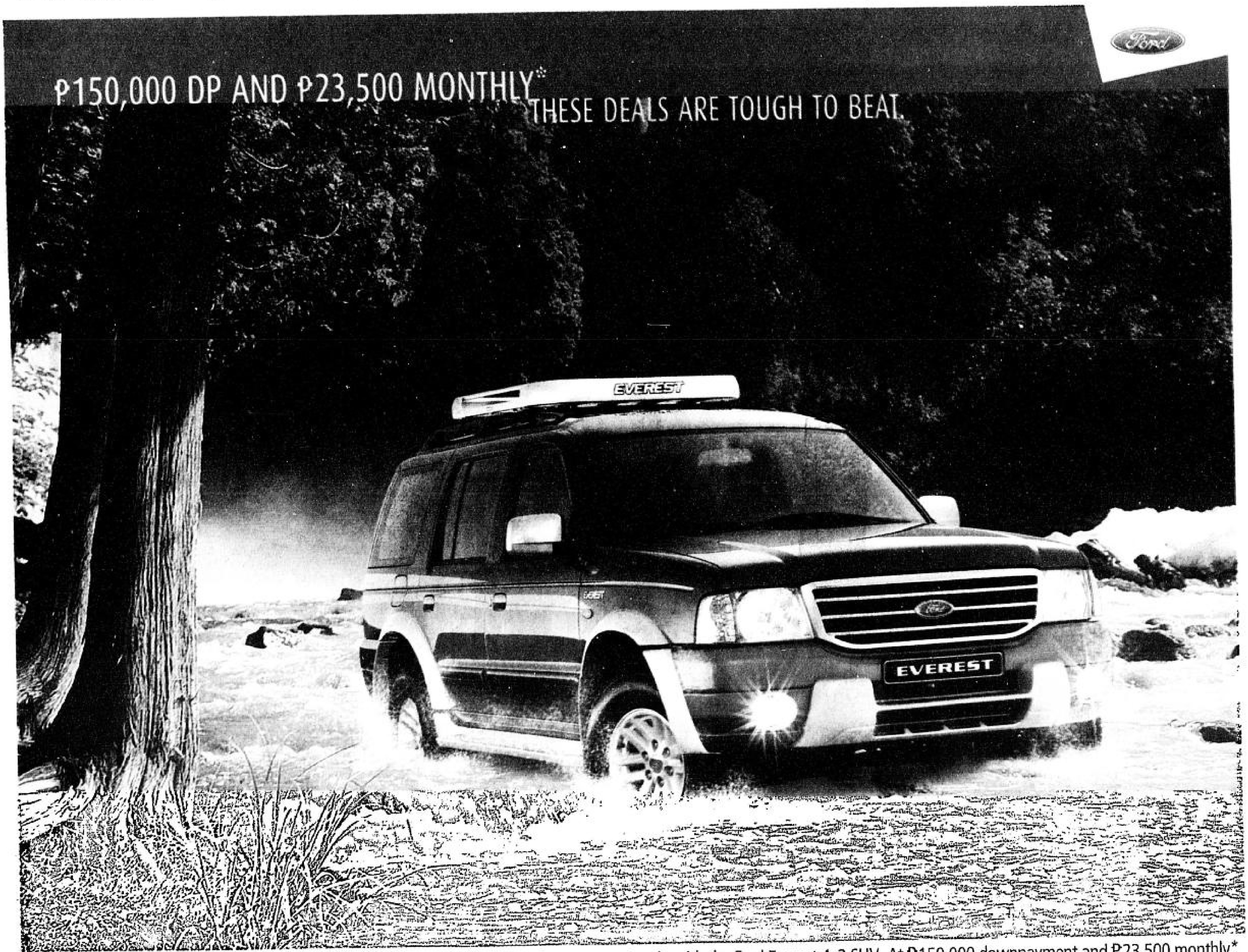
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Giants, Bulls collide tonight

From page A21

turned his car—a sleek tangerine 1999 Honda SIR—into a makeshift children's sketch pad, carving out lines and other indiscernible images on it with a pointed object.

Guiao's last brush with championship glory was in 2002, when his Bulls defeated the San Miguel Beermen to claim the Commissioner's Cup.

Back from that championship roster are Tugade, Junthy Valenzuela, Mick Pennisi and Jimwell Torion. The Giants, on the other hand, have Roger Yap, Richard Yee and Kerby Raymundo as remnants of their 2002 title run.

Guiao's main worry lies in the fact that Purefoods' semifinal foe, Air21, plays a lot like his Red Bull squad.

"They (Express) shoot threes, do fastbreaks a lot and post up their big men," said Guiao. "[The semifinals were] actually a rehearsal for them. On the other hand, we don't have that opportunity because Ginebra has a different style."

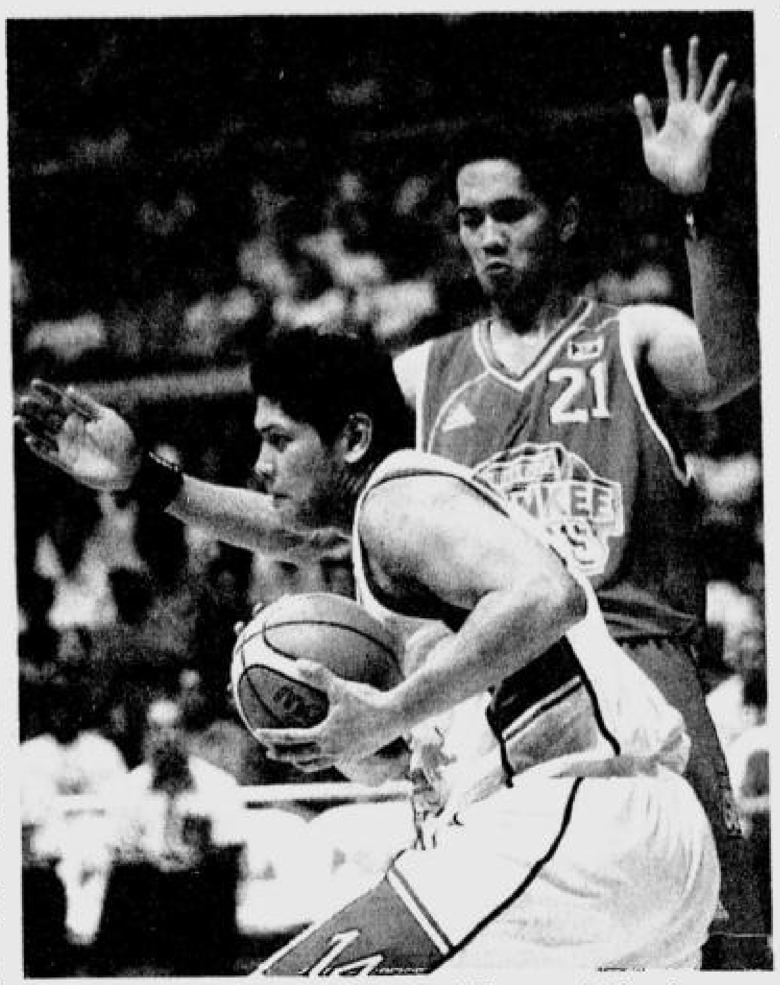
Gregorio, on the other hand, is well aware that Red Bull is now far different from the team his Purefoods swept in the elimination round. And the big difference lies in import James Penny, who replaced Quemont Greer.

"If you look at the situation before, they had a different import," said Gregorio, whose charges will be led by import Marquin Chandler.

"Penny has been working wonders for Red Bull now because he gets the locals involved so that makes them very dangerous.

Pacquiao, Finals guest

BOXING ICON MANNY PACQUIAO WILL MAKE the ceremonial toss before the start of Game 1 of the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference finals between Purefoods and Red Bull today at the Araneta Coliseum. This marks the second time Pacquiao is opening a game in a professional league. He threw the ceremonial pitch in a Major League game between the Los Angeles Angels and the Oakland Athletics in the United States in September of last year, the first Filipino to do so.



MATCHUP TO WATCH: Red Bull's Rico Villanueva (left) and Purefood's Kerby Raymundo AUGUST DELA CRUZ

UAAP board tackles DLSU pullout plan

By Jasmine W. Payo

WILL LA SALLE'S PLANNED PULLOUT PUSH through?

The UAAP board will tackle La Salle's move to skip one basketball season when it convenes in an emergency meeting today at Casa Español in Manila.

School representatives, however, offer no assurance that a decision will be reached. They said other sources fanning various speculations are merely "reading the minds of the board."

"The board has not decided yet on anything," said Dr. Ricardo Matibag, a member of the fact-finding committee investigating the eligibility scandal involving Archers Mark Benitez and Tim Gatchalian.

La Salle recently filed a one-year leave of absence from the men's basketball tournament, saying the decision is among its voluntary steps to rebuild the school's cage program. Basketball is one of the UAAP's two mandatory sports.

Last January, the UAAP fact-finding committee vowed to submit its decision and recommendations by the end of the month.

TOURNAMENT host Bert Bravo hits the ceremonial drive. ERIK ARAZAS

Konica Minolta Nat'l Pro-Am fires off today

By Jong Arcano

SILANG, CAVITE—THE CASH-RICH KONICA Minolta National Pro-Am tees off here today with the star-studded field expecting wildly swinging fortunes in the one-ball two-some format that provides little room for errors.

It's the monster course that is the Riviera's Langer, however, that forms the biggest part of the puzzle for the 116 two-man teams who will be tackling a whole lot of challenges from two-club winds to sun-hardened greens, to the hazards that abound.

Judging from what they did in the tournament's two most recent editions when they won the title back-to-back, best friends Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco seem to have mastered this brutal test.

But their quest for a "three-peat" is under fire as most of the country's top touring pros and a prominent newcomer, Juvic Pagunsan, are also in the chase for handsome cash prizes in this richest National Pro-Am ever.

With the total pot increased to P1.7 million from last year's P1.5 million, this year's winning pro will get P234,940 and the runner-up P157,862 in the four-day event held through U-Bix Corp. of Bert Bravo and organized by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Cantada, still battling a rare blood disease called phlebitis, again skipped yesterday's traditional pro-am to conserve energy.

Pagunsan is playing in his first local event as a pro in tandem with Dennis Canoy, Cassius Casas is teaming up with Korean Kim Hyung-soo, while Mars Pucay, the recent Omega Cup champ, renews his partnership with Jose Roy.

Also expected to figure in the title race are 2002 champions Raul and Paul Miñoza and the pair of Rey Pagunsan and Bobby Celestino.

Meanwhile, Anthony Balan and amateur Francis Gaspar combined for an 8-under-par 63 to top the Celebrity pro-am. Balan received P30,000 with Gaspar, an HSBC manager, taking home merchandise and a trophy.

Edwin Estrera and Ramon Jimenez Jr. finished second. Third place was shared by the tandems of Mario Siodina and Riviera director Voltair Gazmin, Richard Sinfuego and Raul Ilagan, Tony Lascuña and Jong Arcano and Elmer Salvador and Johnel Bulawit.

The event is backed by Grappa's Ristorante, Pivo Praha and S-Yard in cooperation with Japan's Konica Minolta, the world's leader in digital imaging. It is also supported by Epson, Rowell, PCI Bank, Land Bank; PSC, Riso, Brother, WWW Express, Equitable Bank, BMG Solar, Casio, Okamura, BPI, Union Bank, Pacsports, Metrobank, UCPB, Industrial Waste Systems Inc. and ServiceMaster.

ABS-CBN game of chance a game of death

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT'S ALL TOO LATE NOW, BUT at least they are trying to determine what had turned the "Wowowee" game of chance into a game of death.

There definitely was serious lapse in security.

There was the tragic absence of common sense, a tiny dosage of which could have led to the opening of at least another entrance.

Although obscenely late, faults would surface one after the other.

Okay, the sponsoring television firm could go break the gates of heaven in trying to defend its reputation.

But it cannot escape responsibility no matter what the ongoing probe would unearth.

* * *

For example, it was easy to believe the claim that they were trying to help alleviate poverty.

Talk-show host Willie Revillame was being truthful in saying they offered give-away questions in exchange for grand rewards.

The way Revillame sounded, there was always a convenient mismatch in favor of the poor people in the audience.

No question about the easy questions, Revillame and his sponsors indeed deserve a pat on the back.

Said Revillame in the aftermath of the tragedy: "Is it a sin to give people hope? Is it wrong to give away P1 million? Is it wrong to raffle off a house and lot?"

Again, nothing wrong about caring for the poor.

We also sympathize with Revillame who, in the end, could also be counted as victim, the way he claimed he had been emotionally savaged by the tragedy that resulted in at least 74 deaths.

* * *

Look, there had been record hysteria when overjoyed countrymen welcomed home world boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao.

Pacquiao had indeed done wonders in scoring a historic victory to claim instant immortality and at the same time lift the spirits, mainly of the poor, suffering *masa*.

But if the anniversary show hosted by Revillame drew a wilder and wider live audience it was because it offered something real and tangible.

It was Pacquiao who came home filthy rich from his triumph in Las Vegas.

Revillame offered instant riches, no matter how random, to the poor.

"Wowowee" was an all-time hit because it provided an overnight trip to the good life.

* * *

But listen here, please. In Pacquiao's case, it was the boxing hero himself who had to wage battle, with the Pinoy audience just waiting for the emotional windfall.

In the case of Revillame, the poor *masa* had to claw and crawl through the mud of poverty in a bid to crash through heaven's gate and qualify for the contest.

That was not all. In the case of "Wowowee," the poor, despite the promises of riches, was also being used to fuel the popularity of the noontime TV show.

The show theme had appeared to be: The more the merrier, the wilder the better.

The social analyst was right. The poor, suffering *masa* have willingly allowed themselves to be sacrificed in the altar of the (TV) commercial gods.

* * *

It may not be proper to accuse ABS-CBN of outright exploitation.

But the firm and its mass media gods clearly fell prey to the absence of common sense. They were guilty of negligence.

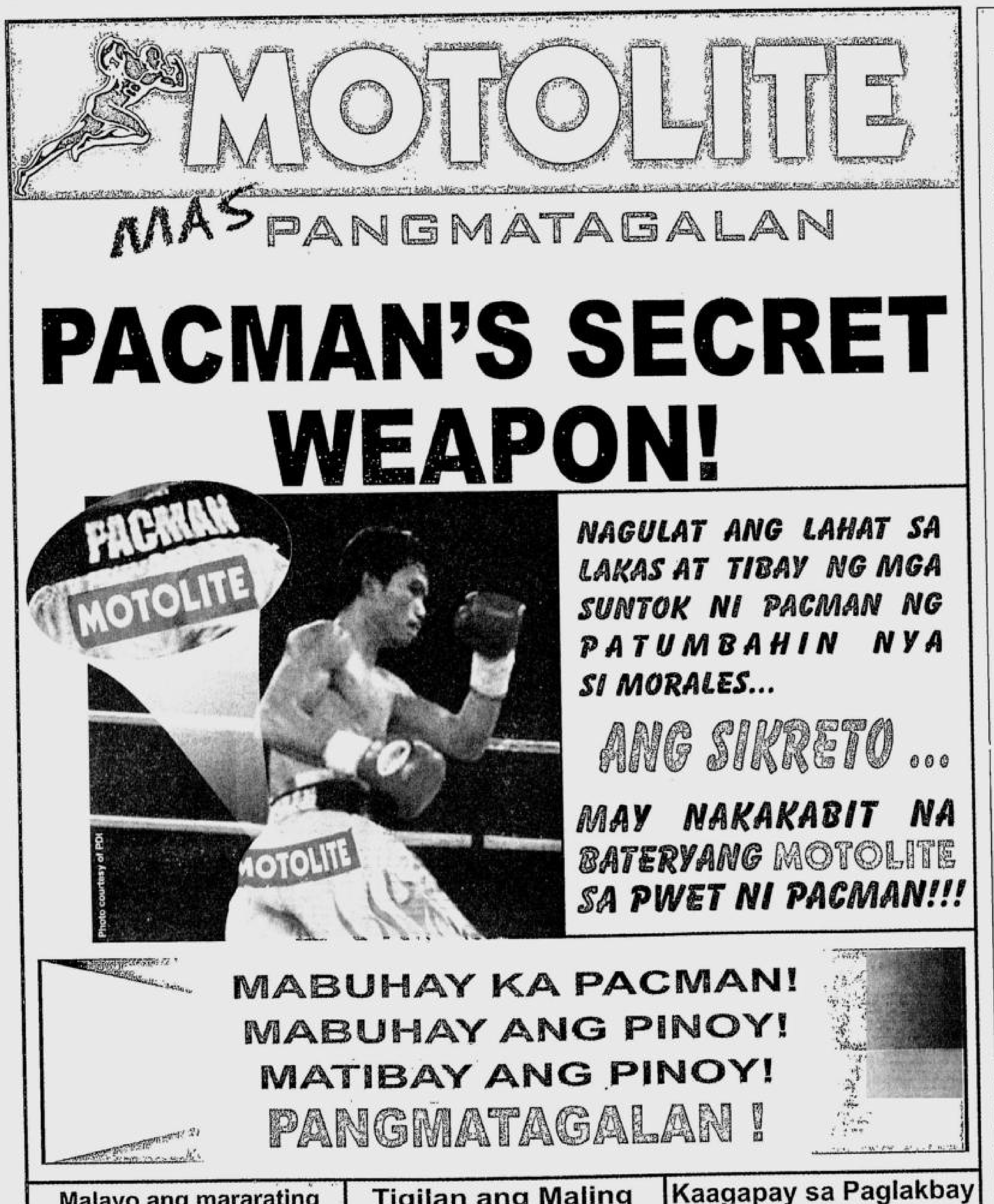
There may be no gauge or graph available that could've measured the growing risk.

But, at the rate the show was drawing them in, it was easy to sense Revillame was surely playing Pied Piper to a horde blinded by the slur of poverty and hunger.

It was not exactly strange how the *masa*, armed with mindless screams and shrieks, also served as fireworks to light up the skies of commercial success.

Just too bad that the TV bosses had themselves turned giddy and, in the process, got burned after freely tinkering with poverty's pyrotechnics.

The poor, indeed, were always a willing toy in life's cruel game. What they last played at the PhilSports Arena was no longer a contest for riches, but instead a game of death, with the poor predictably on the losing end.



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Still no word on TNT coach

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

AS I STARED AT the calendar yesterday, I realized that Shell barely had a week to finalize the sale of its PBA franchise to Welcoat. If the transfer is not completed by noontime of Feb. 15, which is the cutoff date for the sale, Shell forfeits its franchise.

Having this in mind, I immediately texted both Bobby Kanapi of Shell and Raymond Yu of Welcoat for an update.

The good news: Shell will not be forfeiting its franchise and the PBA will definitely have a 10th team next season.

"We have finally come to an agreement. We have shaken hands, so to speak," said former Shell governor Bobby Kanapi who urged me to call Raymond Yu or Terry Que, the new owners of the franchise, for the formal declaration.

Which Raymond couldn't give because he said it should come from the PBA commissioner.

"*Hindi pa tapos yan*. Now that the sale has been completed, the next step is for the PBA board to formally approve the transfer," Raymond said.

By way of welcoming the new team although unofficially, the PBA board hosted a luncheon for them at the Summer Palace of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel two Mondays ago.

***

Almost everyone is awaiting with bated breath an announcement from Talk 'N Text which was due early this week.

Apparently, TNT management is having a very tough time choosing who will replace Joel Banal as head coach of the Phone Pals—Chot Reyes or Derick Pumaren. The choice has been narrowed down to the two, according to TNT governor and PBA vice chair Ricky Vargas.

From what I gathered, Ricky had a long meeting with Derick late yesterday afternoon. Derick returned from a Hong Kong vacation with his family last Monday night.

***

Got this interesting note from Nat Sagun, former Manila Chronicle sportswriter now based in the US who recently bumped into Sonny Delasin, father of golfer Dorothy, at the Moffet Field Golf Course clubhouse in Mountain View.

"Sonny was dismayed because Dorothy refused to let him come to Hawaii to help her retool her swing for the Feb. 16-18 SBS Open to be held at Turtle Bay in Oahu, Hawaii," Nat related.

"Sonny said Dorothy was having problems with her right wrist. He had offered his expertise to help her change her swing but she turned it down. He said it was a big "No dad!" response he got when he called her."

Nat said Sonny was with Dorothy's younger brother Dodong, whom he described as "a tall, lanky teener who has shown a lot of promise in golf."

According to Nat, Dodong is set to compete in a San Francisco City tournament next month. Sonny, he said, is now concentrating on this young lad, hoping to mold him into another world golfer like his sister.

"Dorothy is now 46th in the money list, earning a respectable $260,406 last year. Jennifer Rosales is 26th with $514, 279. By the way, *pakibati daw* for Sonny *lahat ng* PSA members, especially Al Mendoza," Nat said.

***

HOOPVINE: Now I finally have something to say to radio listeners who have been asking if it's true that this PBA player had been gifted with a very expensive luxury car by his wealthy celebrity sweetheart. Well I got it from a good source that the player did get a BMW but that he never got to drive it because he sold the car immediately upon receipt. My source said he needed the cash for the house he is building. "*Hindi naman nagalit yung* girl. Ok *lang*," my source said.

'Kalikasan' races kick off Saturday

RUNNING BUFFS CONVERGE AT THE QUIRINO Grandstand on Saturday for the staging of the 2006 dzMM Takbo Para sa Kalikasan.

Now on its seventh year, the foot race offers P70,000 in cash prizes, as well as trophies and medals to the top finishers in the 3K, 5K and 10K events. Top finishers in the men's and women's division of the 5K and 10K races will also go home with a pair of Nike shoes.

Proceeds of the marathon will go to the rehabilitation of the La Mesa Watershed.

Vice President Noli De Castro has been invited to fire the starting gun for the 5K run at 6 a.m. ABS-CBN president Luisito F. Alejandro will send off the 10K runners while chief correspondent Korina Sanchez will start the 3K run.

Race director Rudy Biscocho said more than 1,500 have already enlisted for the event. Registration ends on Wednesday at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. on Annapolis Street in Greenhills.

For Steelers, the hard way is the right path to glory

DETROIT—THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS owned the easy road to the Super Bowl all those years they squandered home-field advantage, all those years coach Bill Cowher's teams couldn't stand up to the pressure, the moment, the challenge.

Maybe this is what was needed to bring out the best in a team that often was among the NFL's elite, but never played like it when it counted most: The toughest road to a Super Bowl championship.

No team had won three road playoff games and then the Super Bowl, much less by beating the top three teams in its conference and the best from the opposing conference. Making the challenge even greater, the Steelers had to win their final four regular-season games just to reach the playoffs.

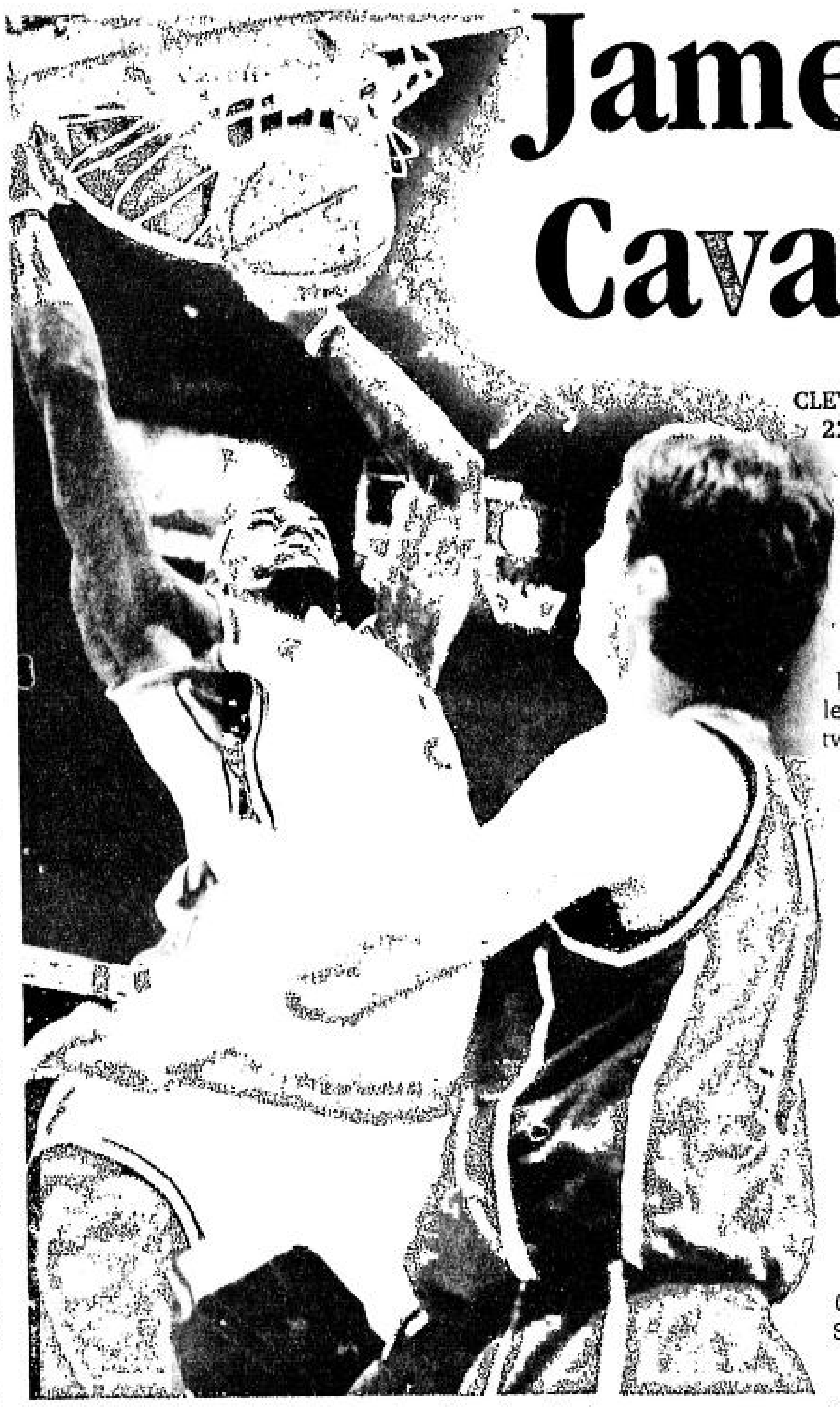
"It feels so much better to do something people say you can't do," linebacker Joey Porter said after the Steelers won their first Super Bowl in 26 years by beating the Seattle Seahawks 21-10 on Sunday. "There's no better feeling than that. We will always be remembered for the way we did it."

After going from a 15-1 record a year ago to an underachieving 11-5 during a regular season marked by injuries—quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was out four weeks with two knee problems—and a three-game losing streak, the Steelers fit a career's worth of highlights into a month's worth of playoffs.

By doing so, those four AFC championship game losses and one Super Bowl defeat since January 1995 finally began to fade into the past, along with the perception the Steelers and their coach couldn't win the big one.

"We had a chance to make history, and that motivated me more," center Jeff Hartings said. *AP*

James lifts Cavaliers



LEBRON James highlights his heroics with a slam dunk. REUTERS

CLEVELAND—LEBRON JAMES SCORED 22 points, including a go-ahead layup in the final seconds, to lead the injury-depleted Cleveland Cavaliers over the Milwaukee Bucks, 89-86, in the NBA on Monday.

James added 12 assists and nine rebounds as he nearly completed his fourth triple-double of the season, but it was his powerful move to the basket that gave Cleveland an 87-86 lead and enabled the Cavaliers to break a two-game losing streak.

"I knew I had to be aggressive," said James. "This was an important game. What's awesome is that we won the season series and have done a great job in our division."

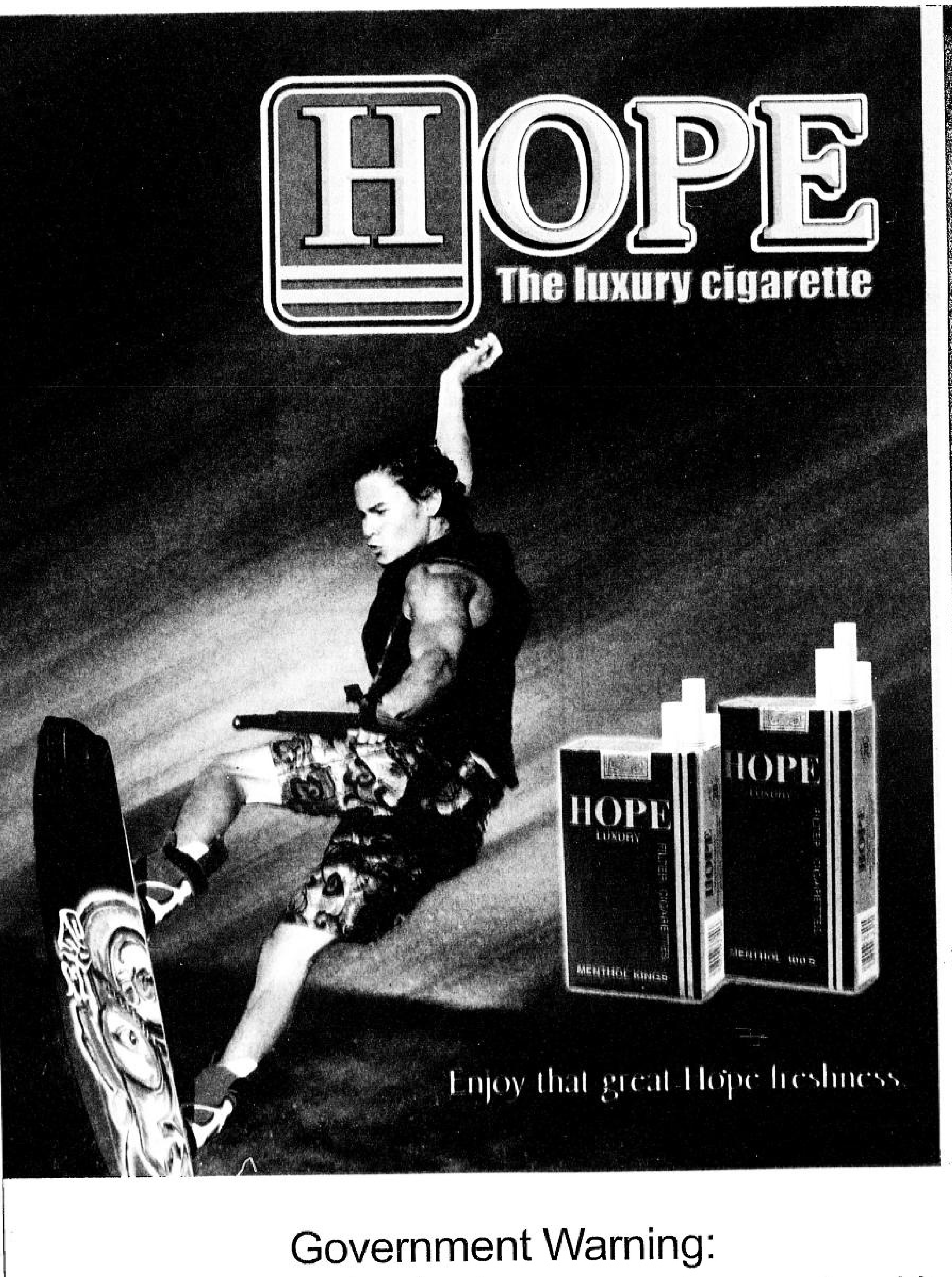
Simmons scored 21 points to lead Milwaukee, which has lost five of eight including four in a row on the road.

Bucks guard Michael Redd scored only 18 points, seven under his average, but came alive in the final two minutes to spark Milwaukee.

Redd was called for an offensive foul as he ran into Anderson Varejao with 11.8 left, and didn't agree with the call. *AP*

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Washington 94, Orlando 82; Houston 87, Philadelphia 81; Cleveland 89, Milwaukee 86; Miami 114, Boston 98; Charlotte 119, Seattle 106; New Jersey 99, New Orleans 91; Utah 109, Chicago 107, OT; Minnesota 103, Phoenix 101; Golden State 122, Denver 114

NBA ON TV: 8 a.m.—Detroit vs. Atlanta, Solar Sports (replay at 5:30 p.m.); 7 p.m.—LA Lakers vs Dallas, Sports Plus; 9:30 p.m.—LA Clippers vs. New York, Sports Plus



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S. Mindanao wrests early Prisaa lead

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—MARLON ORACION crowned himself the fastest man and Janice Sinoy the fastest woman as they propelled Southern Mindanao to the top of the 2006 Private Schools Sports Athletic Association (Prisaa) National Games at the Narciso Ramos Sports and Civic Center here yesterday.

RUNNERS try to outdo each other in the elimination round of the 110-meter hurdles for men. RAY B. ZAMBRANO

Counting the twin victories of Edward Pascua and Shara Grace Tesaluna in the men's and women's shot put and Judelyn Miranda's triumph in the 1,500-meter run, Southern Mindanao snared five gold medals after 11 events.

Oracion topped the men's 100-meter dash with a time of 10.8 seconds while Sinoy ruled the women's division in 12.5 seconds. Pascua heaved the iron ball a distance of 12.98m while Tesaluna cleared 10.34m. Miranda clocked 4:49.81.

Southern Tagalog was at second with three golds, courtesy of Rolly Guzi in men's high jump, Kayce Maala in women's high jump and Alquin Bolivar in men's 1,500-meter.

Traditional powerhouse Western Visayas was third with two gold medals from swimmers Delbert Gallos in the men's 200-meter freestyle and Kristine Cubasol in the women's 200-meter freestyle.

Central Visayas' Marlon Galo clocked 1:14.45 in topping the men's 100m breaststroke.

The Ilocos region, which is hosting the event for the first time, has yet to join the medal board.

Southern Mindanao also took two silvers through Philip Ocon in the men's 1,500-meter and Darrel Cabanero (men's shot put).

At presstime yesterday, Southern Tagalog bets have surged ahead with 15 gold, 7 silver and 1 bronze medals.

Meanwhile, Dr. Gonzalo Duque, Prisaa national president, said the more than 3,000 athletes would join a version of the "bangus festival" that would be staged by the city government on Wednesday night.

Duque said each player would be given a *bangus* and a hotdog that they would grill at the city plaza.

"This will be the first time that a local festival will be participated in by representatives from all regions of the country," said Duque. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Imus five Tangkad Sagad leg winner

IMUS PILOT SCHOOL BESTED Moonwalk Elementary School, 17-13, to top the Metro Manila South Zone of the Cherifer Tangkad Sagad Basketball Tournament over the weekend at the San Beda-Alabang gym.

The Imus Pilot squad of head coach Arnolfo Nepomuceno and assistant coach Ronnie Yohan earned the second ticket to the National Finals to be held at the Festival Mall in Alabang on March 11.

Imus Pilot had earlier turned back Bayanan ES, 13-10, while Moonwalk ES nipped Faith ES, 12-10, in the semifinals of the event supported by Adidas.

Cherifer product manager Tom Meneses, tournament director Edmundo "Ato" Badolato and organizer Bernard Ocampo agreed that Imus Pilot would give first leg winner San Beda-Manila a tough time in the finals.

Red Lions, Tams blast HAIL rivals

SAN BEDA AND FAR EASTERN University notched contrasting victories over the weekend at the resumption of the Home and Away Invitational League (HAIL).

The San Beda Red Lions nipped University of Sto. Tomas, 74-70, while the FEU Tamaraws trounced Emilio Aguinaldo College, 82-69, to keep their title hopes alive in the country's only home and away collegiate tournament

Samuel Ekwe, the Lions' biggest man on the floor, and guard John Escobal combined for 35 points to hand the Lions their third victory in as many games.

Ekwe had 18 and Escobal added seven for San Beda, which trailed by three, 53-56, at the end of the third quarter. The half ended tied at 35.

Jojo Duncil led the Growling Tigers with 16.

Jonas Villanueva exploded for 27 points, JR Gerilla added 16, while RB Mangahas and Marlon Adolfo had 13 apiece as FEU rolled to its second victory in three games in the event supported by Adidas, the official outfitter, and Sunbolt, the official sports drink.

The tournament resumes tomorrow with another four-game bill in both men's and women's divisions.

St. Benilde will host San Beda; UST plays at home against La Salle; Lyceum will visit FEU and Ateneo battles EAC away. Women's matches will be played at 2 p.m., while the men's action starts at 4 p.m.

Clearwater

PETRON CHAMPS: Jeneveve Lanuevo gets a congratulatory kiss from Mark Lord, general manager of event host Clearwater Country Club in Clark Field, Pampanga, after her partnership with sister Jennifer bagged the crown in the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball championship over the weekend. The Lanuevos secured a berth in the Petron grand finals set later this year in Manila. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Spring cagers down Koreans as Nat'l Interclub gets going

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Spring vs. Wang's Ballclub
3:30 p.m.—San Sebastian vs. Chosun

NEWLY-CROWNED PICAA Open champion Spring Cooking Oil showed to much class in demolishing Chosun Club of Korea, 87-75, at the start of the 2006 National Inter-Club Basketball Championship at the Rizal Coliseum.

Led by veterans MC Caceres and Mario Reyes, the Cooking Oil Masters of national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla dominated the game from start to finish in beating the Koreans and serving notice of their title aspirations in the five-team tournament organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP).

Caceres fired 19 points, while Reyes added 11 points for Spring, which led by as many as 22 points, 71-49, after only three quarters.

Larry Rodriguez, Marlon Yambao, Rodel Manuel and Danny Capobres scored six points or more to underscore Spring's balanced offensive.

The scores:

SPRING 87—Caceres 19, Reyes 11, Rodriguez 11, Yambao 8, Manuel 7, Capobres 6, Tiongco 5, Neo 4, Vilamin 4, Bagulon 4, De Castro 2, Sta. Cruz 2, Inigo 0.

CHOSUN 75—Choi 20, N. Chung 20, H. Seung 17, A. Soong 9, H. Woo 6, YH Sung 3.

Quarters: 25-12, 41-27, 71-49, 87-75

SPORTSWATCH

RP riders back in groove

MALAYSIA—ALBERT PRIMERO AND MERCULIO Ramos Jr. of Pagcor-Casino Filipino cycling squad atoned for their disastrous showing in Stage 3 by securing top 10 finishes in Lap 4 of the Asian category of the TM Le Tour de Langkawi from Tapah to Kuala Selangor here Monday. Kazuhiro Mori topped the 142-km stage in 3:18.52. Primero and Ramos arrived with the main pack, 1:54 minutes behind Mori, and finished seventh and 10th, respectively. But they hardly moved in the Asian standings with Ramos, who scored a breakthrough win here in the first stage of the 2004 edition, staying in 14th place, almost 21 minutes behind four-day leader Takashi Miyazawa of Japan, who had a 13:14.59 aggregate. Primero, who finished a fighting third in Stage 2, slid to 24th despite his seventh-place stage finish.

Las Piñas derby today

COCKERS AND BREEDERS FROM CAVITE AND Batangas battle their counterparts from Metro Manila in today's Jhezil Farms 4-Cock Derby at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Action starts at 7 p.m. with 55 matches lined up. Today's host is noted breeder Jover Dilao, who is known for his Lemon Roundheads and Kelso fighters. According to Dilao, the cash prize at stake is P350,000 for an entry fee of P8,800. Entries will be accommodated until 2 p.m. and interested parties may call 874-3910 or 873-1040 for inquiries.

57 fights in Makati 3-cocker

ANOTHER TOUGH 3-COCK DERBY KICKS OFF tonight at the Makati Coliseum with 57 fights on the roster. Derby regulars from the Pasay Cockpit, Roligon, Sta. Ana, Elorde, Mandaluyong Cockpit, Cavite Coliseum, Pateros and the Pasig Square Garden have been invited to the event presented by the WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., in cooperation with B-Meg Derby Ace. Meanwhile, three entries shared the championship of the PCAP 5-cock derby last Monday—Concrete Breaker of Emil Chua, Bacolor Gold of Efren Canlas and the Golden Circle I entry.

Pacquiao Big Event finals on

FIFTY FIGHTS ARE ON TAP TONIGHT IN THE Pacquiao Big Event 8-Cock Derby at the San Juan Coliseum. Gerry Ramos' Against All Odds Joke entry lead the qualifiers after scoring four victories in Monday's eliminations of the derby backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Within striking distance with three wins each are JU Listana of Gov. Chavit Singson, SJC April 5 of Louie Cua and Dorie Du of Davao, JU AS Super Pacman Complexor 3000 of boxing hero Manny Pacquiao and Patrick Antonio, LCC Leonard of Boy de Roca, Ara and Richard of Gov. Tony Kho and JT PA BP Emerald Complexor of Jun Topacio.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos 635-9822, 631-0673, Telefax No 635-9826

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippine through the Department of Education is a recipient of an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of JPY7,210 million to finance the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be utilized for eligible expenditures for the new construction of the following projects:

	Project Description	School	Location
1	Two storey, 2-classroom building with Science Laboratory	Naval National High School	Naval, Biliran
2	Single storey, Science laboratory building	Higatangan National High School	Higatangan Island, Naval, Biliran
3	Single storey, industrial arts building	Viga National High School	Maripipi, Biliran

JBIC requires that bidders and contractors as well as the DepEd, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA loans, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of the such contract. In pursuance of this, JBIC: (i) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question and (ii) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) registered contractors or joint venture contractors with valid license, general building in category and eligible to enter into a contract based on award. Schedules of issuance of bidding documents, pre-bidding conference and opening of bids are as follows:

Municipality		Issuance of Bidding Documents	Pre-bid Conference	Opening of Bids
Maripipi	Date	Feb 3 – Feb 10, 2006	Feb. 14, 2006	Feb 27, 2006
	Place	ME's Office, Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall
	Time		10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Naval	Date	Feb. 2-9, 2006	Feb 10, 2006	Feb 22, 2006
	Place	ME's Office, Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall	Municipal Hall
	Time		10:00 AM	10:00 AM
Contact Person Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee or Municipal Engineer				

The complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the Office of the Municipal Engineer and payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Cashier's Office. They may visit also the DepEd website at http://www.deped.gov.ph or the Procurement Service at http://www.procurement service.org

Submission of bids together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue and dates. All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of all the bidders or their legally authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR MAROHOMBSAR
Vice-Chairman Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb 1 & 8, 2006)

DAR

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
Municipality of Siaton
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Community - Managed Agrarian Reform And Poverty Reduction Project (CMARPRP)

INVITATION TO BID

February 8, 2006
World Bank/IBRD Loan No 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Community - Managed Agrarian Reform And Poverty Reduction Project (CMARPRP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under contract located in Algiba ARC, Municipality of Siaton, Province of Negros Oriental. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Siaton, Province of Negros Oriental and implementing partner of the DAR for CMARPRP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the *Rehabilitation of 2.40kms. Saingan Road* under *Contract No. RIRR 06 197 03 ALB-NO.*

Project Duration	90 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents	PHP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security	PhP 90,000.00
Bid Closing Date	March 8, 2006 Time 10:00 AM.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	14,400.00	sq. m.
12(1)	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	5,048.00	cu. m.
13	Excavation for Structures	960.00	cu. m.
14(2)	Embankment Using Excavated Materials	4,038.00	cu. m.
14(2)	Embankment Using Borrow Materials	1,536.00	cu. m.
20	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	1,440.00	cu. m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	1,440.00	cu. m.
50(4)	Installation of 910mm dia. RCPC w/ Headwalls	8.00	cu. m.
51(2)	Grouterd Riprap	1,728.00	cu. m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Backhoe (1 unit)-owned; Bulldozer (2 units)-owned; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor, 9 tonner min. (1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (2 units)-owned; Loader (2 units)-owned; Dump Truck (4 units)-owned, Water truck (1 unit)-owned, survey instruments-owned/leased.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Siaton, Province of Negros Oriental, starting February 9, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP5,000.00 February 15, 2006 at 10:00 AM

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PhP90,000.00 in the form of; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, or a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Siaton Province of Negros Oriental, on or before the Bid closing date on March 8, 2006 at 10:00 AM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Siaton, Negros Oriental reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) DARIO L. ARBOLADO
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI – Feb 8, 2006)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO Tel. No. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 - Fax 840-1575

Section I, Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Nasulo Geothermal Power Plant Project (Full Turnkey 20 MW Geothermal Power Plant)
EDC 06-009

1. PNOC - Energy Development Corporation invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Nasulo Geothermal Power Plant Project (Full Turnkey 20 MW Geothermal Power Plant) under project number EDC 06-009 having an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of Philippine Peso Two Billion One Hundred Sixty-Five Million Six Hundred Thousand (PhP 2,165,600,000.00). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
2. PNOC - Energy Development Corporation now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Nasulo Geothermal Power Plant Project (Full Turnkey 20 MW Geothermal Power Plant) (EDC 06-009). Application for eligibility may be secured from Contracts Admin. Group for a non-refundable fee of US Dollars Five Hundred (US$ 500.00). The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents, which is on 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Admin. Group Office Wall Clock Time) of February 27, 2006 (Monday) at Board Room, Fourth Floor, Building V, Energy Compound, Merritt Road Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be enabled to purchase the Bidding Documents
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordanc with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at Contracts Admin. Group, First Floor, Building V, Energy Compound, Merritt Road Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila on or before 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Admin. Group Office Wall Clock Time) of February 27, 2006 (Monday)
5. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PNOC-Energy Development Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. starting on the day of the issuance of the bidding documents, which is on March 6, 2006.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of US Dollars Two Thousand (US$ 2,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative.
7. PNOC-Egergy Development Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on 10:00 a.m. of March 13, 2006 (Monday) at the Board Room, Fourth Floor, Building V, Energy Compound, Merritt Road Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Admin. Group Office Wall Clock Time) of May 5, 2006 (Friday). All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in an amount stated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be immediately after the deadline of submission of bids at the Board Room, Fourth Floor, Building V, Energy Compound, Merritt Road Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to witness said activity
9. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
c/o The Bids and Awards Committee
Building V, Energy Compound, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila
(632) 893-6001
cag@energy.com.ph
(632) 840-1461
www.energy.com.ph

(Sgd.) FRANCIS M. DOLOR
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb 8 & 15, 2006)

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

eedbac ge/city/me 07 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

RUSTOM Padilla and Princess Punzalan, a guest at the launch on Sunday. RYAN LIM

From hotel bed to 'papag' and 'banig'

PBB celebrity housemates desert pampered lives—but for how long?

By Nini Valera

BEFORE THEY ENTERED what would be their "back-to-basics" address for 45 days, participants in the reality TV show "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition" stayed in a hotel—each to his/her own room.

On Sunday night, when it was time for them to be introduced to the public, the 14 new housemates, including RX deejay Rico Robles—who was almost "evicted" even before he could enter the Big Brother's house because of a glitch in his contract—were blindfolded, hooded, and escorted by uniformed guards from the Grand Boulevard Hotel on Roxas Boulevard to waiting vans outside.

A short ride brought the group to the Army and Navy Club, where they boarded a yacht. After a while they were stripped of hoods and blindfolds and transported by speed boat to Baywalk Manila on Roxas Boulevard, where the launch would be held and telecast live [over ABS-CBN].

As they went onstage, the celebrity participants were escorted by PBB's first-season housemates.

First to go up was Rudy Fernandez, called the Man of Steel of Asia because of his mechanical right leg. Ex-housemate Jenny Suico accompanied him.

Fernandez, 58, a triathlon athlete, lit a torch that apparently symbolized his excellence in athletics despite his handicap. His three sons, Spitz, Fritz and Ritz joined him on stage and wished him well.

A street dance production number welcomed housemate Bianca Gonzalez. She cried when a video message from her brother, TV host JC Gonzales, who was in the US, was played.

The most applauded of the celebrity housemates was John Pratts, who brought the house down with another dance number with his dad Donnie, plus Mico Aytona, Aiza Marquez, Glaiza de Castro and Theo Barros.

Housemate Angela Calina, sang her favorite song, "Wildflower" with Side A's Joey Generoso. Her daughter, Aira, was onstage.

RX deejay Rico Robles performed a hip-hop and rap number

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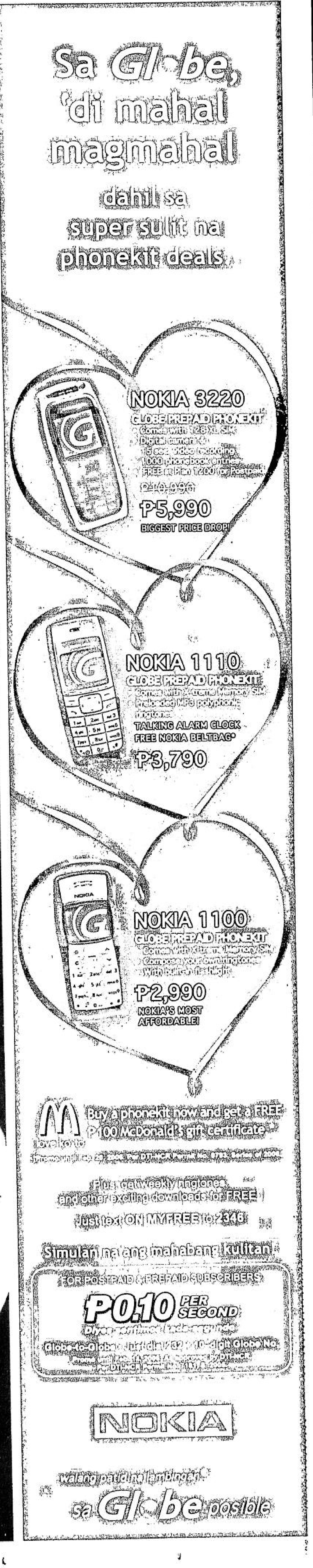
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	4 DERAILED	5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	6 FIREWALL	7 MUNICH		
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6 MUNICH
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 FIREWALL
9 DERAILED
10 WALK THE LINE

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 NEW WORLD
2 DERAILED
SAW 2
3 BLOODRAYNE
UNDERWORLD 2
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
6 FIREWALL
7 MUNICH

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 MUNICH
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 NEW WORLD
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 DERAILED
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 FIREWALL
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 NEW WORLD
5 SAW 2
6 DERAILED
7 WALK THE LINE
8 NEW WORLD

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

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2 FIREWALL
3 RESERVE
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2 NEW WORLD
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 FIREWALL

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3 UNDERWORLD 2
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1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
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4 THE MAID
5 LITTLE MANHATTAN

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2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 UNDERWORLD 2

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1 FIREWALL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 UNDERWORLD 2

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2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
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3 SAW 2
4 PROOF
5 UNDERWORLD
6 FIREWALL

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2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
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3 LITTLE MANHATTAN
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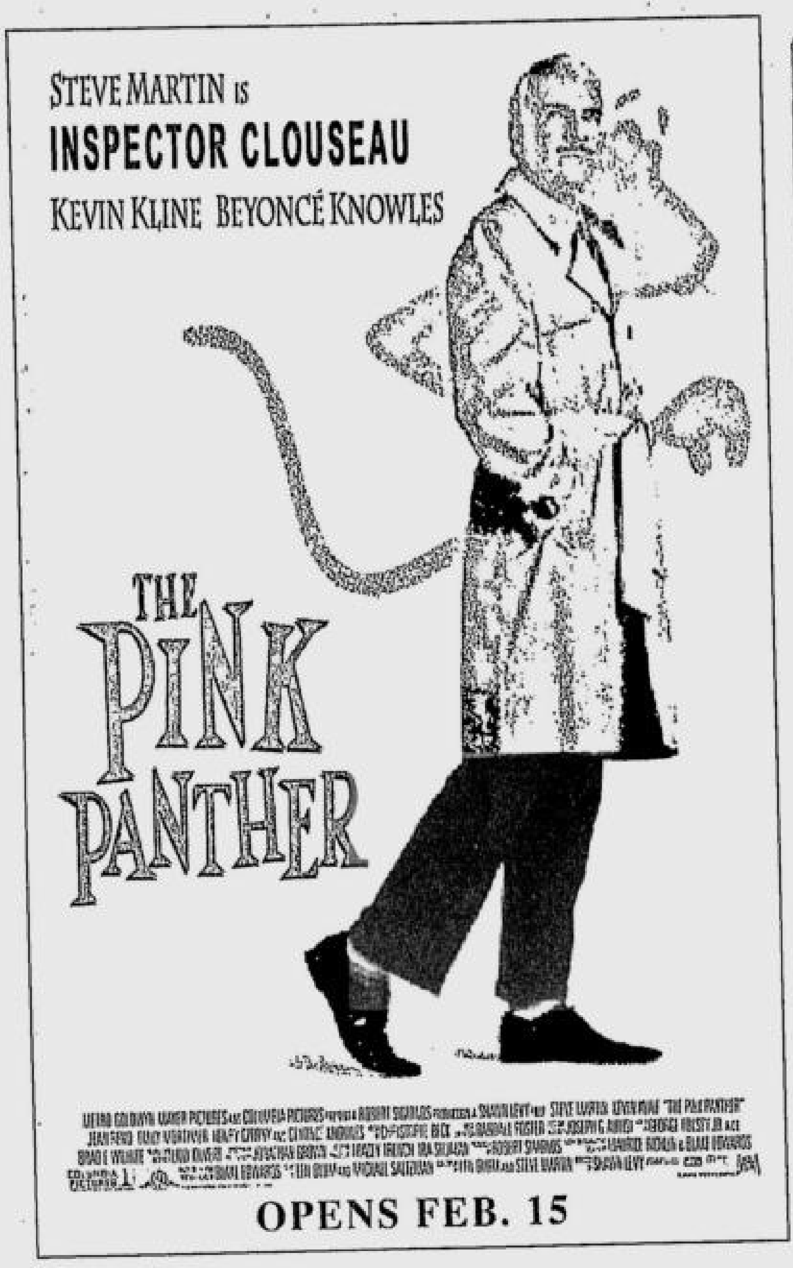
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DID YOU KNOW...

Not a few Inquirer employees, so used to visiting celebrities, were starstruck when Sharon Cuneta came by recently. She was openly admired, applauded and approached by snapshot- and autograph-seekers, who emerged from nooks in the building we didn't know existed.

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① FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
MTRCB: PG-13

② FIREWALL
MTRCB: PG-13

③ THE NEW WORLD
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④ MUNICH
MTRCB . R-13

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Téa Leoni
Fun with Dick and Jane
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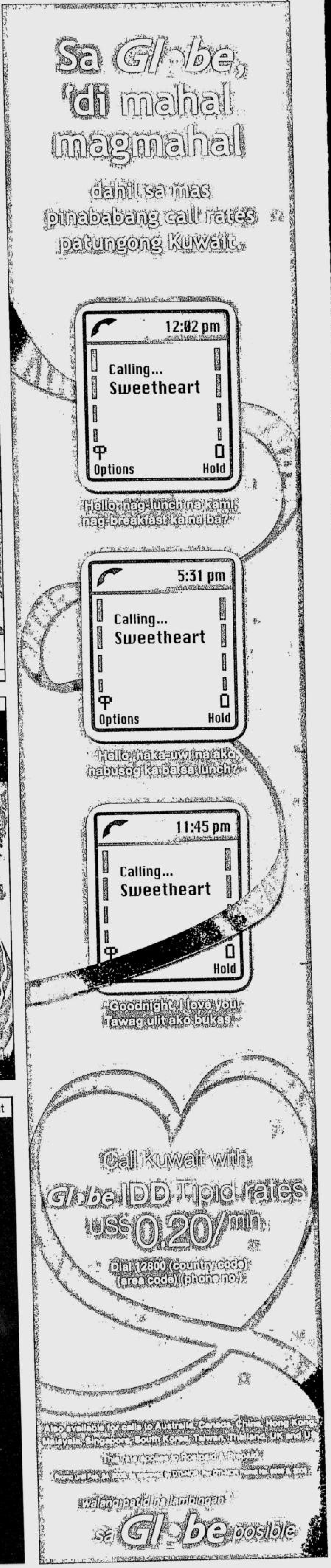
HARRISON FORD
PAUL BETTANY
FIREWALL
THEY'RE ALREADY INSIDE.
OPENS TODAY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From hotel ...

From page A2-1

with deejay Shorty. Rico was visibly shaken when the next housemate, Roxanne Barcelo, with whom he said he had a previous understanding, was introduced.

Budoy Marabiles, front man of the indie reggae band Junior Kilat, showed the audience why he is idolized in the Visayas, especially Cebu. Budoy rapped/sang Orange and Lemons' "Pinoy Ako" in Waray, sprinkling his act with comedy by pulling host Toni Gonzaga into a dance routine that required him to hold her around the waist.

A fashion show heralded the arrival of fashion designer Mich Dulce, who is also the vocalist of the all-girl bands "Death by Tampon" and "If Disco is a Crime."

Another fashion show welcomed Bench model Zanjoe Marudo, who spoke by phone patch with his father Zosimo, a chef in New Jersey. The six-foot hunk wept with joy.

Triple gold medal SEA Games winner Gretchen Malalad was next introduced to the crowd, estimated at 15,000 by ABS-CBN head of security Rene Luspo.

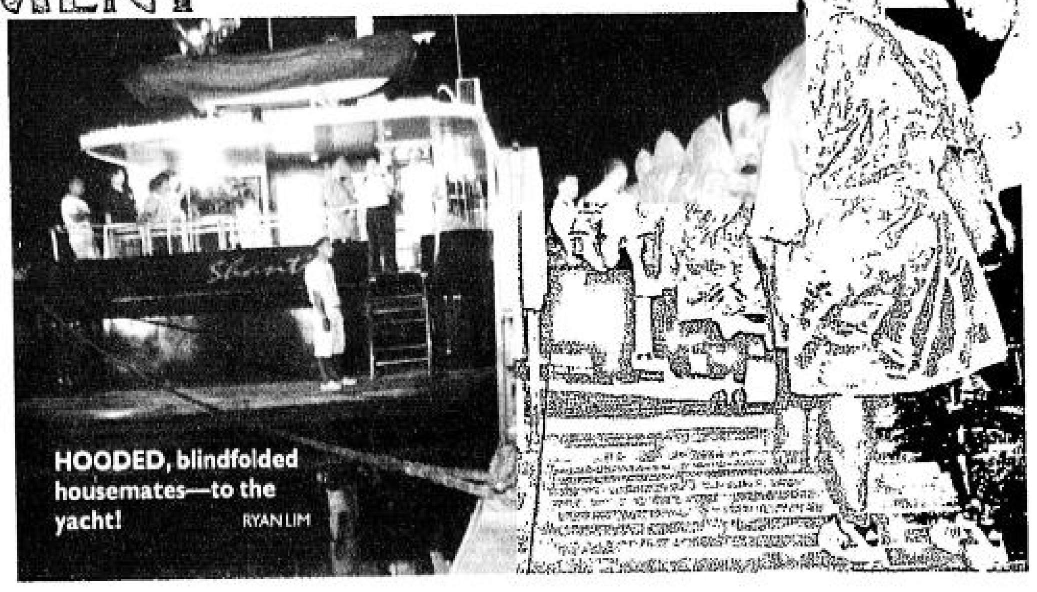
Keanna Reeves could barely control her tears when stand-up comics Chokoleit and John Lapuz welcomed—and then bade her goodbye.

For returning celeb Rustom Padilla, facing the huge crowd at the Baywalk was a poignant reminder of his once much-envied stardom. "Yes," Rustom said, "I'm ready to fall in love inside the house."

For the last time before she's holed up inside the PBB house, Aleck Bovick held her lover, Carlo Morales, who assured her that he would be waiting. Their poignant farewell was one of the highlights of the four-hour show that ended only after the housemates boarded a float that took them to the PBB house in Quezon City.

Reaching "home," the housemates found it stripped of sofas and pillows—it was initially designed like a middle-income dwelling—and furnished with bamboo benches. And instead of beds with mattresses, there are now *papag* (native beds) and *banig* (straw mats).

How long will they last?


HOODED, blindfolded housemates—to the yacht! RYAN LIM

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UNDERWORLD 2 12 20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 1:30 / 3:50	DERAILED 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9 40 SAW 2 5:50 / 7:50 / 9:50	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

Ali MALL CINEMAS

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BLOODRAYNE 12:15 / 2:15 / 4:15 / 6:15 / 8:15	FUN WITH DICK & JANE 12:15 R2 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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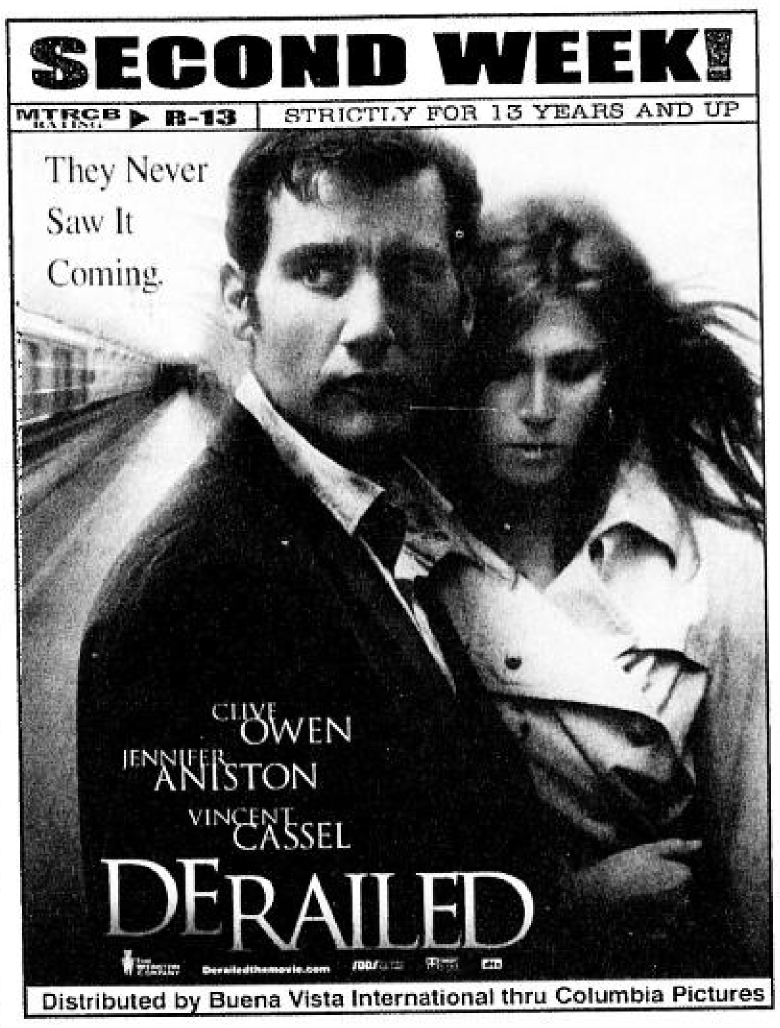
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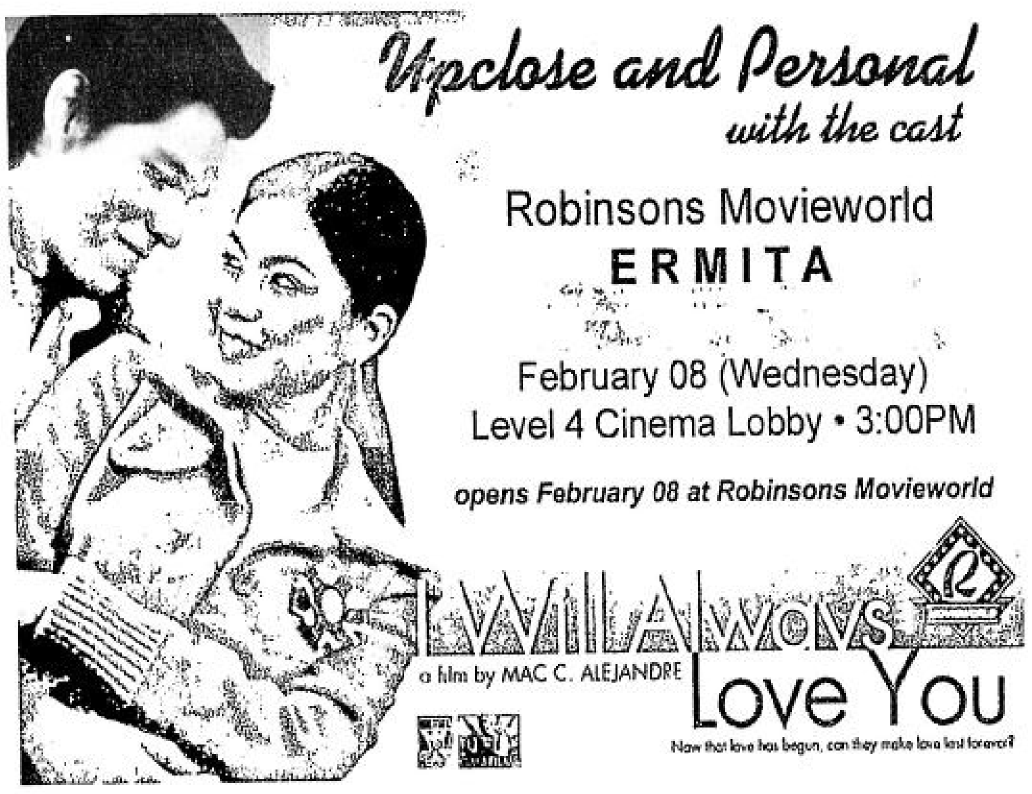
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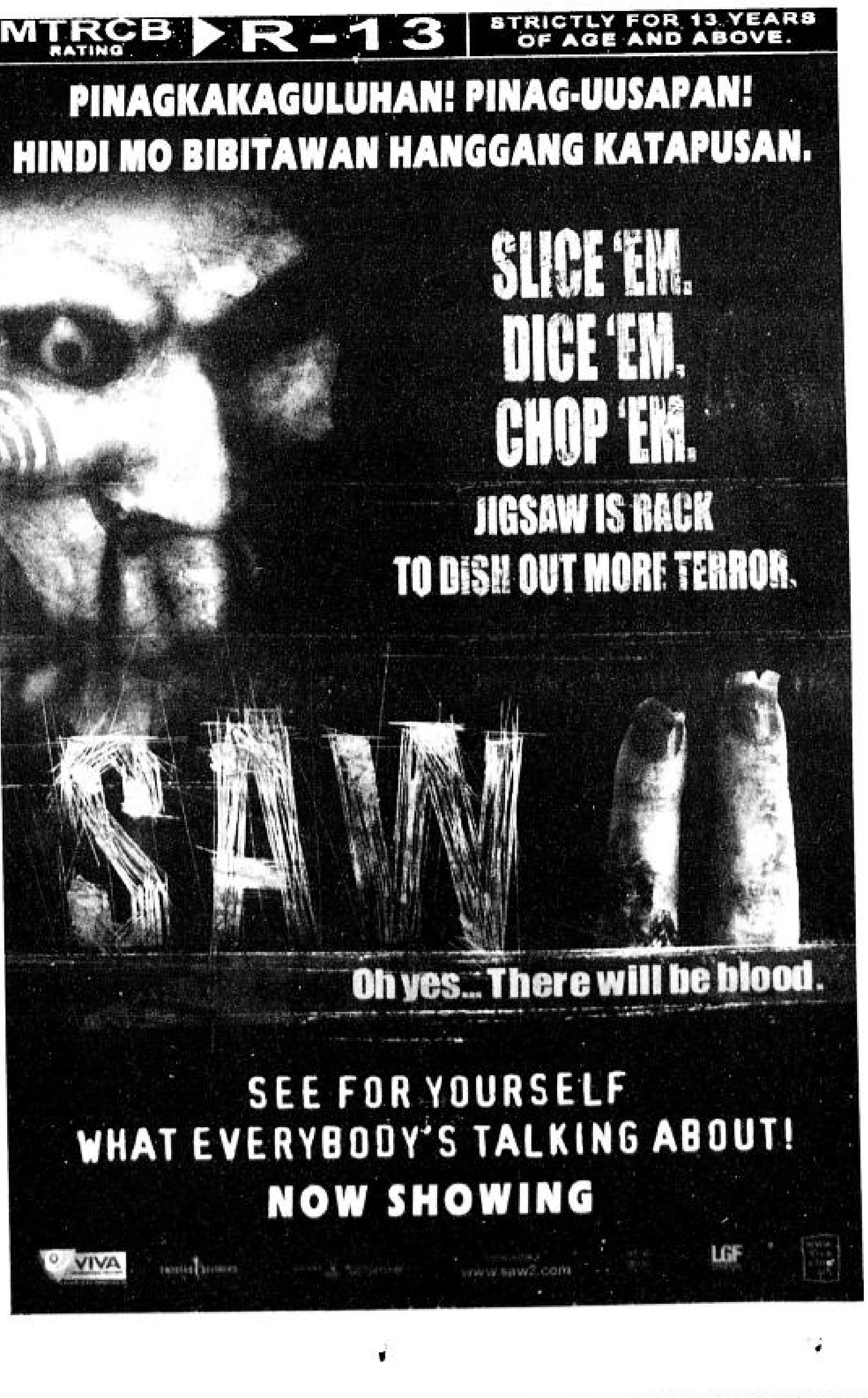
Now that love has begun, can they make love last forever?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ROUNDUP

RP vets' champ

San Francisco—Fil-Am Hollywood actor Lou Diamond Phillips led Asian-Americans chosen to receive "Legacy Awards," the Asian-American Journalists Association announced Friday.

Phillips will be among five people honored at the association's awards ceremony in Texas in March, the group said.

The actor was heralded for championing efforts to get the US government to pay reparations to Filipino-American veterans of World War II. *AFP*

JESSICA Alba

Fantasy GF

New York—More men want Jessica Alba for their girlfriend than any other woman, according to AskMen.com's top 99 list for 2006.

The 24-year-old actress tops the website's list ranking female celebrities on their "long-term relationship material." Alba is followed by "Alfie" star Sienna Miller and the ubiquitous Angelina Jolie.

James Bassil, editor in chief of AskMen.com, said the list was determined by the rankings of 2.5 million readers and by the site's staff.

The rest of the top 10, in order: Brazilian model Adriana Lima (No. 1 last year), "Access Hollywood" correspondent Maria Menounos, Charlize Theron, Jessica Biel, singer Amerie, Natalie Portman and Eva Longoria.

Britney Spears—a mainstay of such lists in previous years—failed to chart. *AP*

KRISDAYANTI, Christian Bautista and Titi DJ

Christian's special

Indonesia's largest TV station, RCTI, airs "Completely—Christian Bautista" tomorrow.

The young Pinoy balladeer, dubbed "Asia's Pop Idol," takes the stage with some of his host country's biggest names in show biz—Krisdayanti and Titi D.J., Andi Riyanto—plus the 40-piece Magenta Orchestra.

. This is the first time Indonesia has invited a Filipino performer to do a TV special there.

Christian was treated like a superstar, with producers providing him with perks reserved for acclaimed artists—including bodyguards, a battery of stylists and a Hugo Boss wardrobe!

Highlights of the show included duets with the Krisdayanti and Titi D.J., a portion where the audience asked Christian questions, and distribution of his CDs.

Writers awards

Los Angeles—"Brokeback Mountain" won Best Adapted Screenplay at the 58th annual Writers Guild Awards on Saturday.

The screenplay was written by Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana and based on a short story by Annie Proulx.

Writers of the ensemble drama "Crash"—Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco—won for Best Original Screenplay.

Other guild awards included: ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," Best Writing for a New TV Series'; Larry David, writer and star of the HBO comedy "Curb Your Enthusiasm," Best Writing in a Comedy Series; "Lost," for Dramatic Series; and Fox's "Mommie Beerest," Animation. *AP*

Concert tickets

Gateway Mall and Coliseum Circle shoppers have a chance to see Andy Williams perform live on Valentine's Day.

Every P1,000 single or accumulated receipts entitles the customer to one raffle coupon for a chance to win two Lower Box tickets to the concert on Feb. 14 plus dinner for two at The Oasis or Mandarin Café and Deli at Gateway. Promo runs till Feb. 12.

'Rent' preview

Remedios AIDS Foundation Inc. presents an advance screening of the movie, "Rent," on March 9 at Robinsons Galleria Cinema 2.

The movie tells the story of a group of bohemians struggling in New York's East Village.

"Rent," the play on which the film is based, is one of the longest-running shows on Broadway. It is also the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Oble Award, New York Drama Critics Award, four Tony Awards and three Drama Desk Awards.

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movietime

SCHEDULE AND EVENTS

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU • FUN WITH DICK & JANE • MUNICH • NEW WORLD • FIREWALL

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THE PODIUM 633-0076
1 FIREWALL
11:30FS / 11:55 MF / 02:10 / 04:25 / 06:40
08:25 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:45 END
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11:46 FS / 12:15 MF / 02:25 / 04:35 / 06:45
08:20 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:35 END
MEGAMALL
1 FIREWALL
10:15 FS / 10:45 MF / 01:00 / 03:15 / 05:30
07:45 / 09:30 LFS / 10:00 LMF / 11:45 END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
11:20 FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
09:05 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
2 FIREWALL
11:00 FS / 11:10 MF / 01:14 / 03:18 / 05:22 / 07:26
09:18 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:25 END
3 DERAILED
11:20 FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30 / 07:30
09:20 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:20 END

movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 FIREWALL
2 DERAILED
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 ZATHURA
6 NEW WORLD
7 SAW 2
8 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
9 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12 MUNICH

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 FIREWALL
2 MUNICH
3 NEW WORLD
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 SAW 2
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 DERAILED
9 BLOODRAYNE
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 FIREWALL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 NEW WORLD

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FIREWALL
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ZATHURA
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 FIREWALL
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 MUNICH
7 NEW WORLD
8 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
9 UNDERWORLD 2
10 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11 SAW 2
12 DERAILED

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 NEW WORLD
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 FIREWALL
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 MUNICH
6 SAW 2
7 BLOODRAYNE
8 UNDERWORLD 2
9 ZATHURA
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 NEW WORLD
2 FIREWALL
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 MUNICH
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 SAW 2
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 FIREWALL
9 NEW WORLD

SM CITY MANILA
1 FIREWALL
2 NEW WORLD
3 SAW 2
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 MUNICH
8 ZATHURA
9 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
10 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11 THE MAID
12 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 FIREWALL
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 SAW 2
5 NEW WORLD
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FIREWALL
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 ZATHURA
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 LITTLE MANHATTAN
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 FIREWALL

SM CITY BACOOR
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FIREWALL
4 NEW WORLD
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
8 BLOODRAYNE

SM CITY MARILAO
1 SAW 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 ZATHURA
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 FIREWALL

SM CITY LUCENA
1 ZATHURA
2 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
3 RUMORHAS IT
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 SAW 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 LITTLE MANHATTAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 FIREWALL
3 DERAILED
4 SAW 2
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 DOMINO
7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
8 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LITTLE MANHATTAN
2 RESERVED
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 ZATHURA
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
7 RESERVED
8 THE MAID

SM CITY DAVAO
1 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
2 ZATHURA
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 THE MAID
5 RUMOR HAS IT
6 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 DERAILED
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
4 LITTLE MANHATTAN

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OPENING TODAY

I Will Always Love You

Stars Richard Gutierrez, Angel Locsin, Amy Austria, Jean Garcia
Directed by Mac Alejandre

Regal's bets for superstardom, Gutierrez and Locsin, play star-crossed lovers in this pre-Valentine offering. He's brash and affluent; she's impoverished but feisty. The pair insists their characters are "different and more mature." In their last romantic outing, the GMA-7 hit "Let the Love Begin," he was poor and she was rich. Okay. Here, they elope to San Francisco where the spoiled boy works in a grocery store to send the girl to school. Director Alejandre vouches for the two: "They worked hard." Producer Roselle Monteverde-Teo says: "They possess the charm ... and depth required by the roles." Mother Lily seals the deal: "They look beautiful together."

Munich

Stars Eric Bana, Geoffrey Rush, Daniel Craig
Directed by Steven Spielberg

The slaughter of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics serves as jump-off point for this political thriller. A clandestine Israeli squadron was unleashed to retaliate—murdering 11 Palestinians suspected of planning the Munich massacre. The film examines the effects of the vendetta mission on the leader and his team. Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times calls it "an act of courage and conscience ... By not taking sides, he has taken both sides." Eleanor Ringel Gillespie of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Though too long and tending toward preachiness, this is an important movie, made with great skill and greater sorrow."

The New World

Stars Colin Farrell, Christopher Plummer, Christian Bale, Q'Orianka Kilcher
Directed by Terrence Malick

The filmmaker behind "Badlands," "Days of Heaven" and "The Thin Red Line" makes his fourth film in 32 years by revisiting 17th-century North America and recounting the clash between the English settlers and the indigenous Algonquin tribe. Since it's a pre-Valentine presentation, the 135-minute epic also touches on the "unlikely romance" between John Smith (Farrell) and the chieftain's favorite daughter (Kilcher). Originally 150 minutes long, the studio lopped off 20 minutes, but the DVD version will reportedly be three hours! Previously told by Disney in the fanciful animated feature "Pocahontas," Malick's version is grittier by a mile. Ty Burr of the Boston Globe raves: "An epic lyrical dialectic. Self-indulgent, gorgeous, maddening, grueling, ultimately transcendent." Michael Phillips of the Chicago Tribune: "Lovely, mirage-like ... A lot of people will be driven crazy... others will be seduced, then exasperated, then seduced again."

Fun with Dick and Jane

Stars Jim Carrey, Téa Leoni, Alec Baldwin, Angie Harmon
Directed by Dean Parisot

This remake of the 1977 George Segal-Jane Fonda movie follows a nouveau poor couple's hilarious descent to crime. After losing his job in an Enron-like scandal, the husband convinces his wife to teach "big business" a lesson by resorting to grand larceny. Wesley Morris of the Boston Globe thinks the new version is "more devilish, hitting its target with reckless glee ... [it] plugs into the popular intolerance, cynicism and ambivalence toward the world's megacompanies." But Allison Benedikt of the Chicago Tribune complains that it got "stuck somewhere between social satire and slapstick."

Firewall

Stars Harrison Ford, Virginia Madsen, Paul Bettany, Robert Patrick
Directed by Richard Loncraine

A bank security specialist's family is taken hostage and he is forced by the kidnappers to steal $100 million from his own bank's security system. The computer expert has only hours to unmask the criminals and save his wife and kids. Fred Stesney of Slashfilm.com dismisses it "as another Ford thriller." Emanuel Levy of emanuellevy.com opines: "[Ford] sees moments in the pieces, peaks and troughs in each scene, and knows very skillfully how far to wind the tension."

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2 FIREWALL PG-13
3 MUNICH R-13
4 NEW WORLD

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5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE NEW WORLD
6 GOLD (SDDS) MUNICH
7 GOLD (DOLBY) FUN W/ DICK & JANE
8 (DOLBY STEREO) DON'T GIVE UP ON US
9 (DOLBY STEREO) CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN-2
10 (DOLBY STEREO) UNDERWORLD-2

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4 FUN W/ DICK & JANE
Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 (DOLBY) FUN W/ DICK & JANE
3 (DTS) FIREWALL
4 SAW-2
Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 THE MAID
2 I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) ZATHURA
Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 THE MAID
2 I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) ZATHURA
4 (DTS) RUMOR HAS IT
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 FUN W/ DICK & JANE
2 I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 (DOLBY) I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 DERAILED
2 I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
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2 FUN W/ DICK & JANE
3 I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 MUNICH

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3 (DOLBY) I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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2 MUNICH
3 I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 THE NEW WORLD
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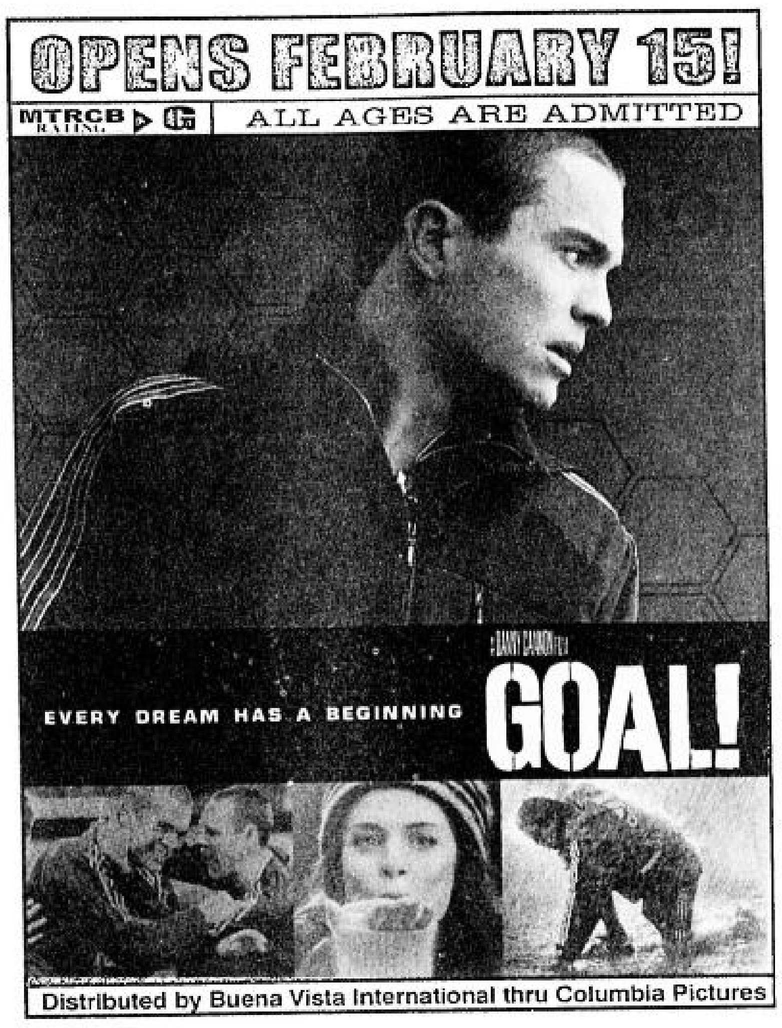
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‘Munich’ assumes ‘Schindler’ mode

A WISE, OLD, CRUSTY NEWSPAPER EDITOR once told a young reporter, if you're not ticking someone off each time you write a story, you're not doing your job.

The same may be true for filmmakers, at least those who want to do anything remotely outside the safe zones of Big Hollywood when it seeks to satisfy every moviegoer with inoffensive pap.

With “Munich,” Steven Spielberg will please plenty of people who worried he would sanitize the story of the 1972 Olympics massacre. But he'll off a whole lot of others.

Spielberg is in “Schindler's List” mode here, merciless in his desire to tell a story light years removed from “E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial.”

Those who want him to make more theme-park rides such as “Jurassic Park” won't be too mad, figuring he's already done one of those in 2005.

Arabs won't be thrilled to have a chapter of Palestinian extremism laid open to painful dramatization.

Betrayal?

Some Jews already are branding “Munich” a betrayal of Israel for its depiction of Mossad assassins hunting the perpetrators as bloodthirsty avenging angels.

Certainly, there is enough sympathy, as well as condemnation, to go around for virtually all of Spielberg's characters, Arab and Jew.

And there is a degree of bloodthirstiness to the Israelis' demand for retribution, as there was bloodthirstiness to Americans' desire for Osama bin Laden's head on a pike after the Sept. 11 attacks. They're only human, as Spielberg makes admirably clear, and a sense of righteous vengeance is in our blood.

“Munich” opens in frantic docudrama style, mixing vintage news coverage with Spielberg's re-creation as members of the Palestinian terror group Black September infiltrate the Olympic Village, beginning a hostage standoff that would result in the deaths of 11 Israelis.

Israel responds from behind closed doors, tapping intelligence officer Avner (Eric Bana) to lead an undercover team to assassinate Black September figures suspected of plotting the Munich massacre.

Spielberg's intent is to chronicle how decades of reciprocal hate and violence continue to escalate unless someone pulls back and says, “Enough.” He succeeds in creating a film very much rooted in the political turmoil of its time, yet which resonates powerfully amid today's ongoing strife.

David Germain, AP

MATHIEU Kassovitz and Eric Bana

REVIEW

Spielberg's latest is light years removed from ‘E.T.’

Dr. Phil after ‘Oprah’

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN OPRAH WINFREY FIRST STARTED featuring psychologist Dr. **Phil McGraw** on her popular talk show, he made a vivid impression on viewers, because he told it like it was.

Unlike other medical experts who guest on TV, he didn't spout scientific jargon and gobbledygook, but made sure to make his points in laymen's terms.

Unsophisticated viewers warmed up to him because he could be so brusque and macho. He believed strongly in individuals' right to be emotionally happy and psychologically whole, and lashed out at people who victimized others in this regard.

Even more tellingly, he criticized the victims, for allowing themselves to be exploited and emotionally battered.

Dr. Phil's guest stints on “Oprah” became more regular, and his viewers base increased. He was good on his own, but even better when Oprah herself questioned him about how to deal with the cases brought to the show for analysis and resolution.

The combination of no-nonsense Phil and warm, empowering Oprah proved to be unbeatable, and both of them benefited from their unique tandem. The ratings of “Oprah” zoomed up, and Dr. Phil became a TV star in his own right.

The only thing he lacked was a TV show of his own. That's why it came as no surprise when he was tapped to host his own program, and thus had to stop appearing regularly on “Oprah.”

How is Dr. Phil faring as his own man on TV? We recently found out, when we caught his show on the new Second Avenue cable channel.

He was as tough and no-nonsense as ever, but we were rather disappointed to see that his hosting style was a bit on the heavy and humdrum side.

On “Oprah,” he was quick with the zinging statement or retort, but on his own, he's less dynamic. He has yet to get the knack of keeping a show going, and not allowing it to get bogged down by so many irrelevant details or detours.

And, without Oprah's warm, TV-savvy touch, Dr. Phil's own show looks like... work. Viewers still get a lot from his telecasts, but they aren't nearly as affecting and as much fun as when Oprah was showing him the TV ropes.

‘Yours, Mine & Ours’

DENNIS Quaid and **Renee Russo** co-star in the dizzy comedy, “Yours, Mine & Ours.” They play former high-school sweethearts who meet again after many years, as single parents of their respective broods of many kids.

Despite the obvious problems involved, they tie the knot. As expected, they don't have an easy time of it, as their very different parenting styles lead to major clashes. But, it's all in good fun, of course, and a happy ending is assured!

‘Casanova’

HEATH Ledger plays the ultimate lover in “Casanova” and **Sienna Miller** is an alluring Venetian beauty who eventually beats him at his own game.

Through a series of clever disguises and ruses, he manages to get closer to her. But he's playing the most dangerous game he's ever encountered—one that will risk not only his reputation, but also his last chance at true passion.

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MUSIC MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 3 & 4	NINA & NYOY	9PM
FEBRUARY 10,11 &13	VINA M. , RACHEL A. & GENEVA C.	8:30PM

TEATRINO
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FEBRUARY 10,2006	BOBBY SOUL	9PM
FEBRUARY 11,2006	SIDE A	9PM
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ANGEL LOCSIN
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MTRCB RATING-GP

High yields, easy access with Citibank Phils.' One Year Withdrawable Time Deposit

Looking for better gains without having to lock up your money for long maturity dates? Citibank Philippines has just introduced the One Year Withdrawable Time Deposit, a novel deposit product that assures customers of high yields while enjoying easy access to their funds.

For a minimum placement of P500,000, a client can earn 6.5% annual interest rate. Upon opening the time deposit, the client has the option to make placements in minimum values of P50,000, receiving as many as 10 certificates instead of just one.

"We developed this product in reaction to market needs. Many Filipinos under-invest or opt to keep their money in 30-day or 90-day time deposits because they are uncertain of their cash flow needs or of how market rates will perform. However, with this type of an investment strategy, they miss out on higher yields offered by longer term deposits," explained Ailene Litonjua, Citibank Philippines' Retail Banking Director.

"Our One Year Withdrawable Time Deposit gives investors better gains for their funds than if these were left in a savings or checking account or placed in a shorter-term time deposit. At the same time, they enjoy convenient liquidity. Should they need the funds, they don't have to pre-terminate the entire placement — just surrender the certificates for the amounts needed," related Sari Pascual, Marketing Head for Retail Banking.

If the client should need cash after the first month, he can choose to pre-terminate some of his certificates, leaving the rest to earn the maximum interest rate of 6.5% per annum. As for the withdrawn amount, this would still earn interest — 4% per annum, a much higher yield than offered by regular savings accounts.

"The product is quite ideal, for example for entrepreneurs who need to be able to readily access their cash at any time. They don't need to park their funds in their savings or checking accounts for cash emergencies or go through the hassle of having to re-book every 30 days," added Pascual.

According to Litonjua: "The Withdrawable Time Deposit is just one of several novel savings products we plan to introduce this year. Studies show that Filipinos continue to have a preference for term deposits as a saving strategy. We are committed to providing options that will give them more flexibility and opportunities for better returns."

Citibank is a member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, and deposits are insured up to P250,000.

"Separately, we are also keen and excited to help educate the market on the rewards of diversifying into more sophisticated investment products," said Litonjua.

"We are also looking at introducing a dollar-denominated Withdrawable Time Deposit, also offering attractive interest rates. Hopefully, the public will come to find these products useful in their personal wealth planning," Pascual said.

For two years now, Citibank has been running a financial education campaign to help Filipinos make smart choices about their money. Highlights include the launch of the Citibank Guide to Building Personal Wealth book, a definitive guide for the Asian investor, and the Use Credit Wisely website, which offers comprehensive information on better credit and financial management.

"We believe that when you have financial education and the freedom and independence that come with it, you can choose the lifestyle that works best for you and your family. Strong financial education programs raise the quality of life for individuals, families and institutions and we consider this as part of our contribution to the greater community," concluded Litonjua.

For more information on the One Year Withdrawable Time Deposit, call 247-9850 (Metro Manila) or 234-9037 (Metro Cebu) or visit the Citibank Philippine branch nearest you.

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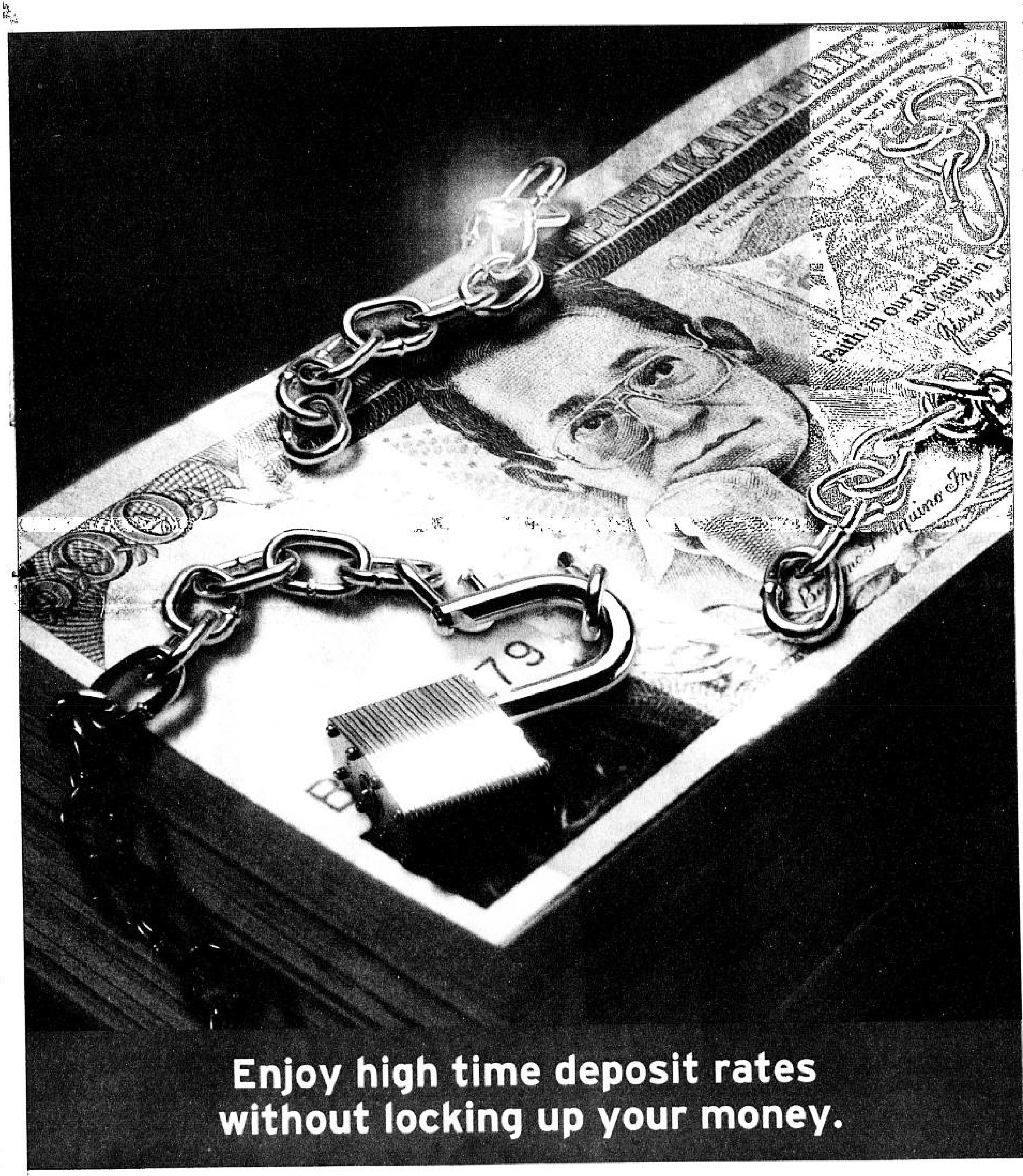

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Forex reserves hit all-time high of $20.5B

End-January level boosted by gov't bond flotations

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' gross international reserves breached the $20-billion mark for the first time in history to hit a record $20.5 billion as of end-January, shored by the government's fresh foray into the global bond market.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday announced that the end-January GIR represented a 10.9-percent increase from the $18.5 billion posted in end-December 2005.

"The new record high GIR level was attributed mainly to the deposits by the national government of its proceeds from the RP Global Bond and Euro Bond as well as the Bangko Sentral's income from investments abroad," Tetangco said.

Taking advantage of improving confidence among foreign investors, the national government raised $2.1 billion from fresh global bond offerings last month.

"These inflows were, however, partly offset by payments of maturing foreign exchange obligations of the national government and the BSP," Tetangco said.

For this year, the BSP was originally expecting a GIR build-up of 18.6 billion.

Tetangco said the fresh external borrowings that supported the GIR last month would be used to cover the government's foreign exchange requirements this year. But he assured that the BSP would continue to keep a comfortable level of external reserves.

The GIR refers to the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings and is a key indicator of a country's ability to service external obligations like importation and debt servicing.

"The current GIR is adequate to cover about 4.3 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of and services," Tetangco said.

"This level is also equivalent to 3.3 times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 1.8 times based on residual maturity," Tetangco said.

Short term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding external debt with original maturity of one year or less plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Meanwhile, the net interna-

FOREX/B4

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Because when it comes to safety, we're utterly committed to going the extra mile. That's why we build all our cars to safety standards that go far beyond the EURO NCAP star system. No wonder that Folksam, a Swedish crash testing agency, has used data from real-life accidents to calculate that Volvo models are at least 30% safer than the average car. And in the annual Consumers Association safety tests, our whole range consistently beats many cars with a five-star EURO NCAP rating.

The same commitment drove our investment in our multi-million pound Safety Centre in Gothenburg, which has investigated over 30,000 real life accidents involving Volvo cars and used their findings to make our cars even safer.

And because we believe computer simulations tell only half the story, we also conduct over 200 full-scale collisions each year, based on what researchers discover on the roads.

We then use this information to create unique safety enhancements, from increasing the size of our crumple zones to help protect pedestrians to WHIPS, our Whiplash Protection System, proven to reduce the risk of long-term whiplash injury.

MYTH #2
A VOLVO'S NATURAL HABITAT IS THE SLOW LANE

Or at the very most, the middle lane. But put your foot down in a Volvo these days and you'll find that myth disappears as fast as the cars in your rear-view mirror.

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Take the Volvo S60 T5, for example. Available for test drives at Volvo dealerships—but in 2002, the very same car broke 18 land-speed records in 24 hours at Milbrook (including racking up an average speed of 135.1mph). Which makes it the only production car to hold such a record. It packs a mighty 260bhp under the bonnet and 350Nm of torque, yet balanced by an array of performance-enhancing technology designed to keep your car on the road and smile on your face. Slow? Sluggish? Sorry, we've got to put our foot down on that one...

MYTH #3
OK, BUT AREN'T VOLVO FANS IN THE MINORITY?

Ah, you'd be surprised. In the past few years, it's been Volvo that's been getting the motoring press hot under the collar, not the marques you'd expect. In the words of an international motoring correspondent, 'these day Volvos are cool cars to be seen in'.

Even certain, more notoriously hard to please motoring journalists have been bowled over -- 'it must be the sheer brutality of the thing that made it head and shoulders above our favorites. Influenced by the strong kick in the solar plexus, we truly felt that if power and excitement is what you want, this is what you need.'

So if you've ever felt inexplicable feelings of attraction towards a Volvo, take heart. You're not alone. Now why not see where those longings take you?

MYTH #4
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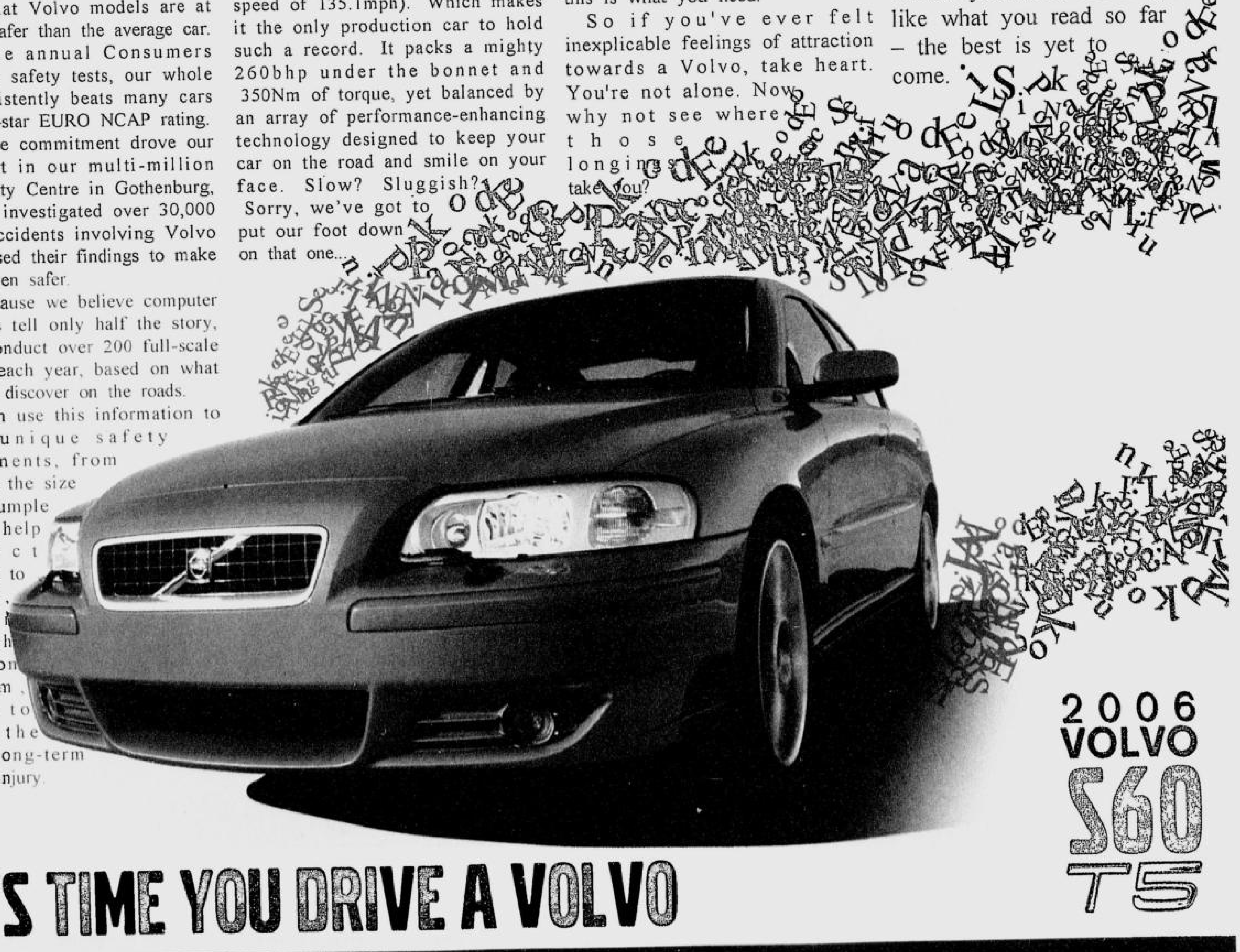
But don't take our word for it. The best way to really see how far we've come is to get behind the wheel yourself. So if you like what you read so far – the best is yet to come.



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Globe posts '05 net income of ₱10.3B

Strong Q4 performance indicates strong recovery from previous quarters' showing

GLOBE TELECOM INC. REGISTERED a 62-percent rise in profit in the fourth quarter last year to P3.9 billion from P2.4 billion in the same quarter in 2004.

Its full-year net income, however, dropped by 9.7 percent to P10.3 billion from year-ago's P11.3 billion due to higher expenses and income tax payments.

The fourth quarter figure was 74 percent better than the P2.2 billion recorded in the third quarter last year.

The improvement in the last quarter of 2005 indicated a convincing recovery for the joint venture of Ayala Corp. and Singapore Telecom from a decline in profit in the second quarter and a flat growth in the following quarter.

Globe's board of directors yesterday declared its first semi-annual cash dividend this year amounting to P20 per share payable to common stockholders of record as of Feb. 21, 2006. The company will pay P2.6 billion in dividends on March 15.

"Despite the increasing competitive climate in the telecommunications industry, the robust fourth quarter results are testament to the success of various initiatives to provide value offerings to our subscribers," Globe president Gerardo Ablaza said in a statement.

He said the company was excited about the future growth opportunities for Globe after it received last year a permit to operate third-generation or 3G mobile services and to expand its fixed-line network nationwide.

"We see this momentum continuing through 2006," he said.

Ablaza credited the company's innovative deals for boosting revenue in the fourth quarter. Promos launched in the second half of 2005—the Globe Prepaid CelebRATE and TM Todo Tawag for heavy call users, Globe Text Non-Stop and TM Todo Text for heavy SMS users, and Budget IDD rates for international long distance callers—increased volume and revenue.

He said the 10-centavo for every second of call launched in December was expected to increase voice calls.

Globe said service revenue grew 8 percent to P14.6 billion quarter-on-quarter and by 4 percent for the full year to P54.9 billion. Revenue rose despite a slight drop in its subscriber base due to a clean-up of non-earning customers in the second half of last year.

Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers stood at 12.4 million in end-2005, down slightly from 12.5 million in end-2004. Of the total, Touch Mobile accounted for 3.1 million customers.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization declined by 3 percent to P32 billion last year. Operating expenses, including subsidies, went up by 16 percent, said Globe.

SENATE

Pasay City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on four (4) projects for the printing and binding of *"Record of the Senate"* and *"Journal of the Senate"*:

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE/PROJECT
PROJECT – A (RECORD OF THE SENATE):			
1. Vol. III, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (746 pp.)	200 pcs.		
2. Vol. IV, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (725 pp.)	200 pcs.		
3. Vol. I, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (930 pp.)	200 pcs.		
4. Vol. II, 2nd Regular Session, 12th Congress (905 pp.)	200 pcs.		
5. Vol. III, 2nd Regular Session, 12th Congress (1,500 pp.)	200 pcs.	Php 2,019,520.00	Php 200.00
PROJECT – B (JOURNAL OF THE SENATE):			
1. Vol. I, 2nd Regular Session, 11th Congress (1,007 pp.)	200 pcs.		
2. Vol. II, 2nd Regular Session, 11th Congress (805 pp.)	200 pcs.		
3. Vol. I, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (978 pp.)	200 pcs.		
4. Vol. II, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (668 pp.)	200 pcs.		
5. Vol. III, 1st Regular Session, 12th Congress (414 pp.)	200 pcs.	Php 1,626,240.00	Php 200.00
PROJECT – C (JOURNAL OF THE SENATE):			
1. Vol. 1, 2nd Regular Session, 12th Congress (714 pp.)	200 pcs.		
2. Vol. II, 2nd Regular Session, 12th Congress (1,272 pp.)	200 pcs.		
3. Vol. I, 3rd Regular Session, 12th Congress (1,000 pp.)	200 pcs.		
4. Vol. II, 3rd Regular Session, 12th Congress (593 pp.)	200 pcs.	Php 1,503,180.00	Php 200.00
PROJECT – D (JOURNAL OF THE SENATE):			
1. Vol. I, 1st Regular Session, 13th congress (886 pp.)	200 pcs.		
2. Vol. II, 1st Regular Session, 13th Congress (754 pp.)	200 pcs.		
3. Vol. III, 1st Regular Session, 13th Congress (613 pp.)	200 pcs.	Php 946,260.00	Php 200.00

The specifications shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm 401, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **1:30 PM to 6:00 PM, February 13-16, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee/s as indicated above. There will be one (1) winning bidder for every project. All books in all projects must be delivered on or before April 30, 2006. Liquidated damages of Php 1,000.00 or 1/10 of one percent (1%) of the unperformed portion, whichever is higher, for each day of delay, shall be imposed on the printer for failure to deliver on said deadline. **The pre-bidding conference shall be held on February 21, 2006, 10:00 AM** at the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

This invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org. and posted at the 4th Floor Senate bulletin board.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Feb. 4 & 8, 2006)

URC to raise ₱12.4B from offering

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FOOD AND BEVERAGE FIRM UNIVERSAL Robina Corp.'s (URC) public offering, which was expected to raise P12.4 billion for the company, generated strong investor interest, sources in the company said.

A company official told the INQUIRER that the strong demand for URC's offering prompted the company to exercise a "greenshoe option" or to issue additional URC shares equivalent to 15 percent of the original size of the offer.

Of the 730 million shares offered, the official said 95 percent was earmarked for foreign investors while the remaining 5 percent was set aside for Filipino investors.

The offer price was set at P17 per share, the company told the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Analysts said URC's final price is an attractive alternative to other Philippine food and beverage stocks that are trading at price-earnings multiples of over 20 times.

URC closed at P18.50 on Feb. 6, a day before the trading of its shares was suspended by the local bourse.

URC requested the PSE to halt the trading of its shares from Feb.7 to Feb.14 to avoid possible price distortions while the price setting process was going on. The listing of the additional URC shares is slated for Feb. 14.

Sources said that with this offering, URC's public float would swell to 36 percent of its total holdings from less than 10 percent.

Analysts estimated that URC's market capital will also increase to $700 million after its share offer.

URC's share offer trails that of First Gen Corp. which, according to its bookrunners, was fully-subscribed by locals.

Sources also said that URC's mother firm, JG Summit Holdings Corp., and its affiliates would trim their stake in URC to around 59 percent from 89 percent after the share offer.

Analysts estimated that the JG Summit Group—which includes JG Summit Holdings, Express Holdings and Robinsons Supermarket—would raise around P7 billion from the sale of secondary shares plus a greenshoe option.

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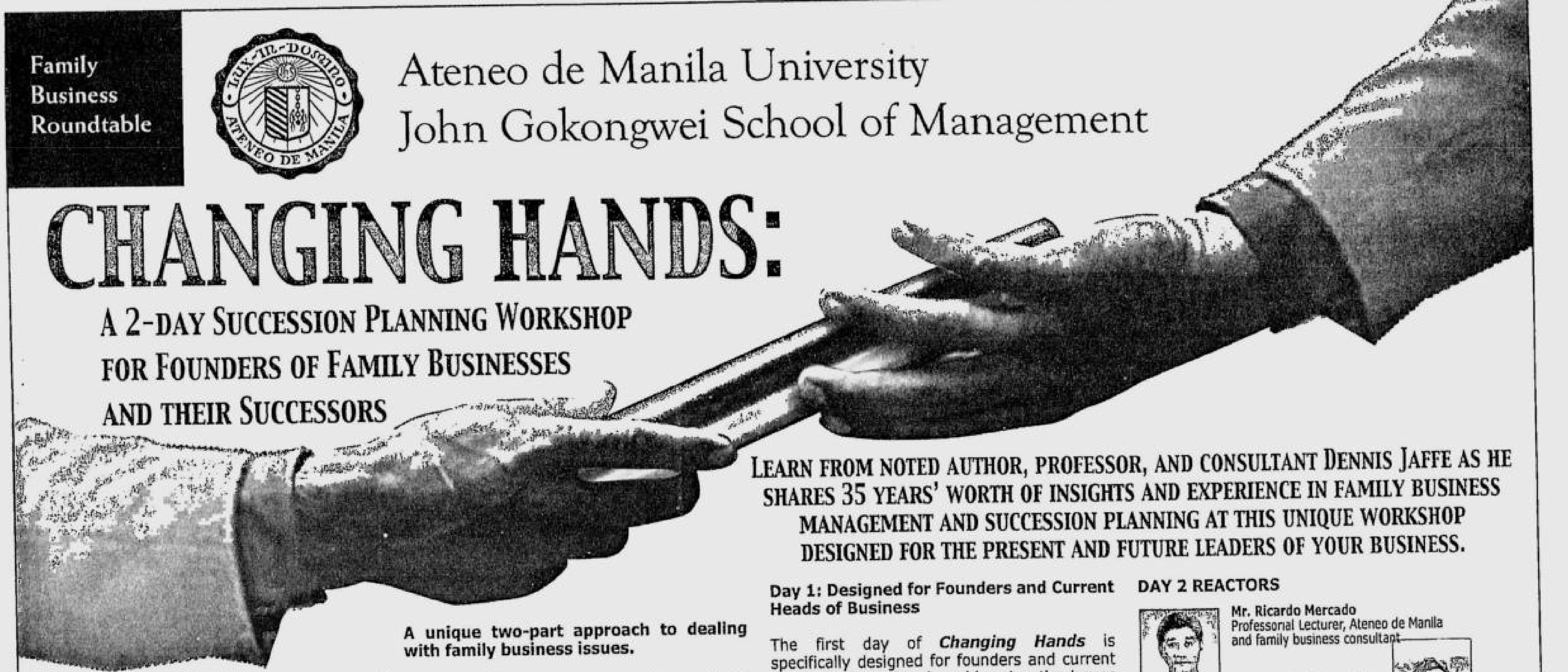

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Dennis Jaffe, Ph.D.
Dr. Jaffe received his BA in Philosophy, MA in Management, and Ph.D. in sociology, all from Yale University. He has been helping family businesses to deal with generational transitions, create effective management teams, design family retreats, and build healthy relationships for the past 35 years. An educator, researcher and consultant in the areas of family business and family wealth management, he serves on the boards of professional family business organizations, and has authored two books dealing with family businesses and their issues.

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DAY 1: Php 3,500
DAY 2: Php 3,500
BOTH DAYS: Php 6,000
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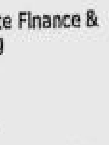
A unique two-part approach to dealing with family business issues.

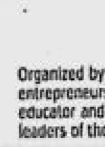
Just how does one ensure the continued success of the family business across generations? Into whose hands should you entrust your business? How do you get your parents to begin succession planning? The answers to these questions are critical to the long-term success of any family business. Take advantage of Dr. Dennis Jaffe's presence in Manila and hear his insights into these important questions at ***Changing Hands***, a unique, no-holds barred two-day seminar/workshop that will address the sensitive issues of succession planning from the points of view of both founders and successors.

DAY 1 REACTORS

Dr. Queena Lee-Chua
Associate Professor, Ateneo de Manila, author, and family business consultant



Roberto Aboitiz
Chairman & CEO
Aboitiz Group of Companies



Antonio Herboza
Principal, Head of Corporate Finance & Family Business Consulting
Punongbayan & Araullo

Day 1: Designed for Founders and Current Heads of Business

The first day of ***Changing Hands*** is specifically designed for founders and current family business heads, addressing the issues important to them: When should I begin succession planning? To what extent should non-family members be considered in the process? How can I select my successor in such a way as to be fair to all my children? How can I make sure my other children accept my choice? How can I name my successor without making myself irrelevant to the business?

Day 2: Tailored for Potential Successors

On the second day, potential family business successors will be put in the spotlight. Among the questions that could be raised: How can I prod my parents to begin succession planning? How do I deal with the succession issue in the absence of a clear succession plan? How should I prepare myself to take over the business? How can I assert my authority over my other siblings? How can I manage disagreements in the absence of a clear head of family?

DAY 2 REACTORS

Mr. Ricardo Mercado
Professional Lecturer, Ateneo de Manila and family business consultant

Mrs. Josephine Gotianun-Yap
President
Filinvest Development Corp.

Participants will be given the opportunity to share their own experiences, react to the seminar inputs, and learn from each other at facilitated workshops.

Each session is designed to stand alone, but participants are invited to attend both sessions, for maximum benefit. Don't just work on the issues important to you; hear about the issues that might be important to the person on the other side of the generational gap. Best results can be achieved when both founder and successor attend the entire workshop.

Join us at this first-of-its-kind family business workshop. ***Changing Hands*** promises to clear the air for family businesses. Listen to, learn from, and interact with Dennis Jaffe and other family business owners so that together you can strengthen your family enterprises --- on the road to greater success.

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Toyota sees car sales slowing down in '06

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LEADING LOCAL VEHICLE MAKER Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. expects sales to grow at a slower rate of 5 percent this year, reaching about 38,000 units, due to the impact on prices of the new value-added tax law.

TMPC's announcement was in tune with the industry projection and outlook as the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the

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INVITATION TO SUBMIT THE BEST OFFER (BLOCK SALE OF EQUITABLE-PCIBANK SHARES)

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) intends to dispose of in a block sale its holdings of 90,078,333 Equitable-PCI Bank common shares, equivalent to 12.4% of the Bank's outstanding capital stock, at a minimum cash offer of P92.00 per share.

Offers to purchase should be accompanied by a cashier's or manager's check equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total offered price and should be submitted not later than March 6, 2006 at 2:00 pm at the following address:

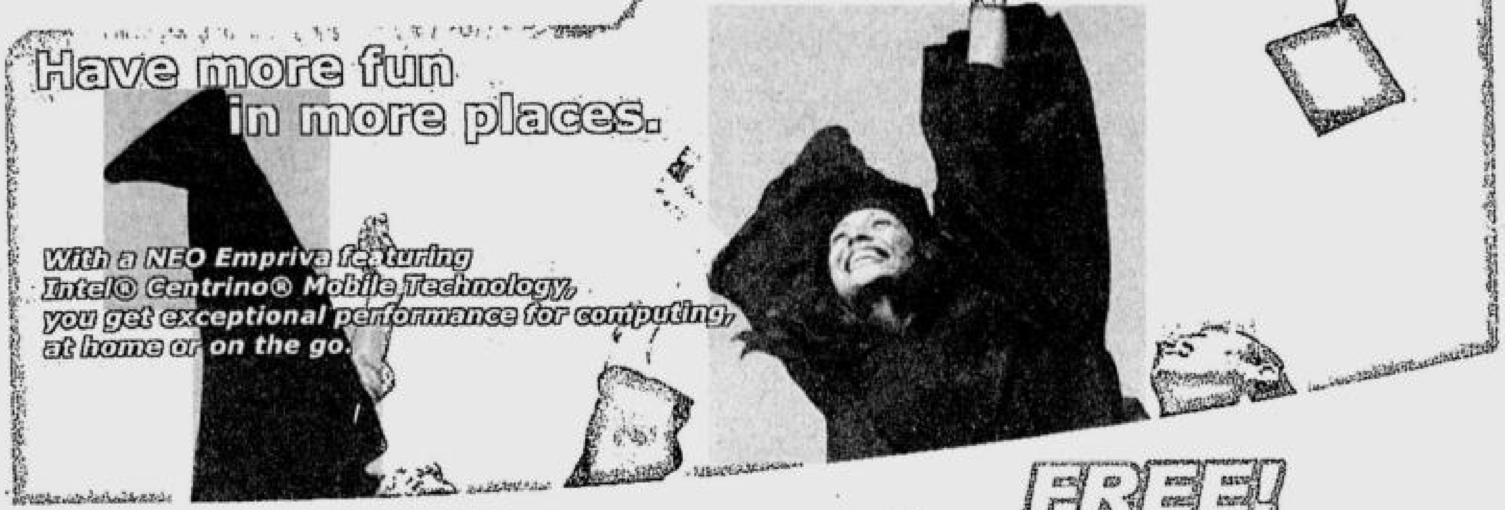
MS. LIVIA ALICIA R. RAMOS
Vice President
Investment Office
Level 3, Core D, GSIS Building
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

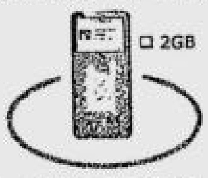
Interested parties should comply with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) rules and regulations on ownership restrictions in banks, and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any or all offers and to annul the process, to waive any required formality therein, or to accept such offers as may be advantageous to the GSIS without giving any reason therefor and without incurring any liability to the affected offeror/s. Further, the offeror shall be liable for any and all costs incurred in its participation and the GSIS assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the offeror/s or any of its agents, for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this undertaking.

For more information, contact Ms. Ramos at telephone numbers 834-2649 and 891-6161 local 4581.

(Original Signed)
OMELITA J. TIANGCO
Executive Vice President
Finance Sector





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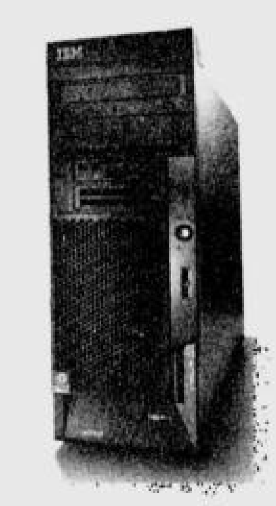

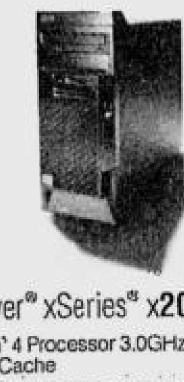

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PLDT drop drags stocks

SHARES DECLINED FOR A SECOND session Tuesday, weighed down by losses in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. after it was downgraded by broker Morgan Stanley.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 35.75 points, or 1.7 percent, to 2,097.38, after shedding 0.3 percent Monday.

PLDT was the most actively-traded stock with a loss of 3 percent to P1,790 on heavy volume of 418,400 shares traded.

Traders traced the sell-off in PLDT to a Morgan Stanley report downgrading the stock to an "equal-weight" from an "overweight" rating after enjoying a strong rally during the past two years.

The report said that while the fundamentals of the country's largest telecommunications group by subscribers and assets remain sound, its upside is now limited by slowing mobile phone growth, competition posed by voice-over Internet protocol, and the potential 4 percent to 5 percent earnings dilution arising from the conversion of preferred shares into common stocks between this year and next. *AP*

Victorias cash flow hit ₱1B in Aug. 2005

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

VICTORIAS MILLING CO., THE COUNTRY'S biggest sugar mill operator, said its cash flow hit P1 billion at the end of its fiscal year ending August 2005.

VMC chair Omar Mier said following the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday that it was the first time that the company's cash flow hit that level in four years.

Mier attributed the surge in cash flow to the spike in sugar prices last year to a record high of P1,200 per 50-kilo bag.

Mier said VMC has enough cash to settle P750-P800 million in principal debt payments, plus interest charges in 2007.

This year, it needs to pay P360 million in interest charges.

VMC still has about P6 billion in outstanding debt that it incurred following a massive expansion program in the early 1990s into non-sugar related businesses.

Its finances floundered as most of these non-sugar ventures failed due to local and foreign competition, and the currency crisis of 1997 made it more difficult for the company to pay off its dollar-denominated loans.

In 1996, VMC posted a net loss of P243 million. By 1997, at the height of the Asian financial crisis, VMC reported a P2-billion net loss.

This forced the company to seek debt relief from the Securities and Exchange Commission and embark on a restructuring program to revive its profitability and pay its debts in the next 10-15 years.

VMC suspended its debt payments to creditors in 1997.

In 2002, VMC entered into a debt restructuring agreement with creditors, which led to the conversion of P1.1 billion in outstanding loans into shares in the sugar miller.

Banks ended up owning 70 percent of VMC.

In 2003, VMC saw a new investor in Tanduay Holdings Inc. of tycoon Lucio Tan, which infused P300 million in fresh cash to help revive the firm.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF 21st CENTURY (BALAGTAS), INC.

1. Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 79 dated January 19, 2006 ordering the closure of the Rural Bank of 21st Century (Balagtas), Inc. (RBCI), the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed RBCI on Wednesday, January 25, 2006.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the following payout sites where they can file their claims with the PDIC representatives during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), from Monday to Friday, except holidays.

RBCI Office/Branch	Payout Site/ Address	Duration of Initial Operations
Balagtas (Head Office)	Km. 29, San Juan, Balagtas, Bulacan	Jan. 25, 2006 to Feb. 3, 2006
Bulacan Branch	Bagumbayan, Bulacan, Bulacan	Jan. 25, 2006 to Feb.3, 2006
Bocaue Branch	Binang II, Bocaue, Bulacan	Jan. 25, 2006 to Feb. 3, 2006
Meycauayan Branch	Sto. Niño, Meycauayan, Bulacan	Jan. 25, 2006 to Feb. 10, 2006

After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS BLDG, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. or by mail to:

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, or Bank Statement including Unused Checks.
   b. Two (2) latest valid identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature.

Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the last day for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of 21st Century (Balagtas), Inc., is on January 21, 2008. After January 21, 2008, PDIC, as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI-January 25; February 1 & 8, 2006)

Forex reserves ...

From page B1

tional reserves including revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, increased to $19.86 billion in January, 12.5 percent higher than the end-December level of $17.86 billion.

Aside from proceeds generated from foreign borrowings, the government expects the external position to remain strong this year on the back of robust inflows from foreign investments, export earnings and overseas Filipino workers remittances.

During an economic briefing yesterday, government economic managers projected that some $50 billion would flow to the country this year from the exports of goods and services.

Export earnings are seen to grow by 10 percent from last year's level.

The government also expects a 15-percent expansion in exports of services led by information, communication and technology sectors such as back-office operations, contact centers, medical transcription services, animation services and software development.

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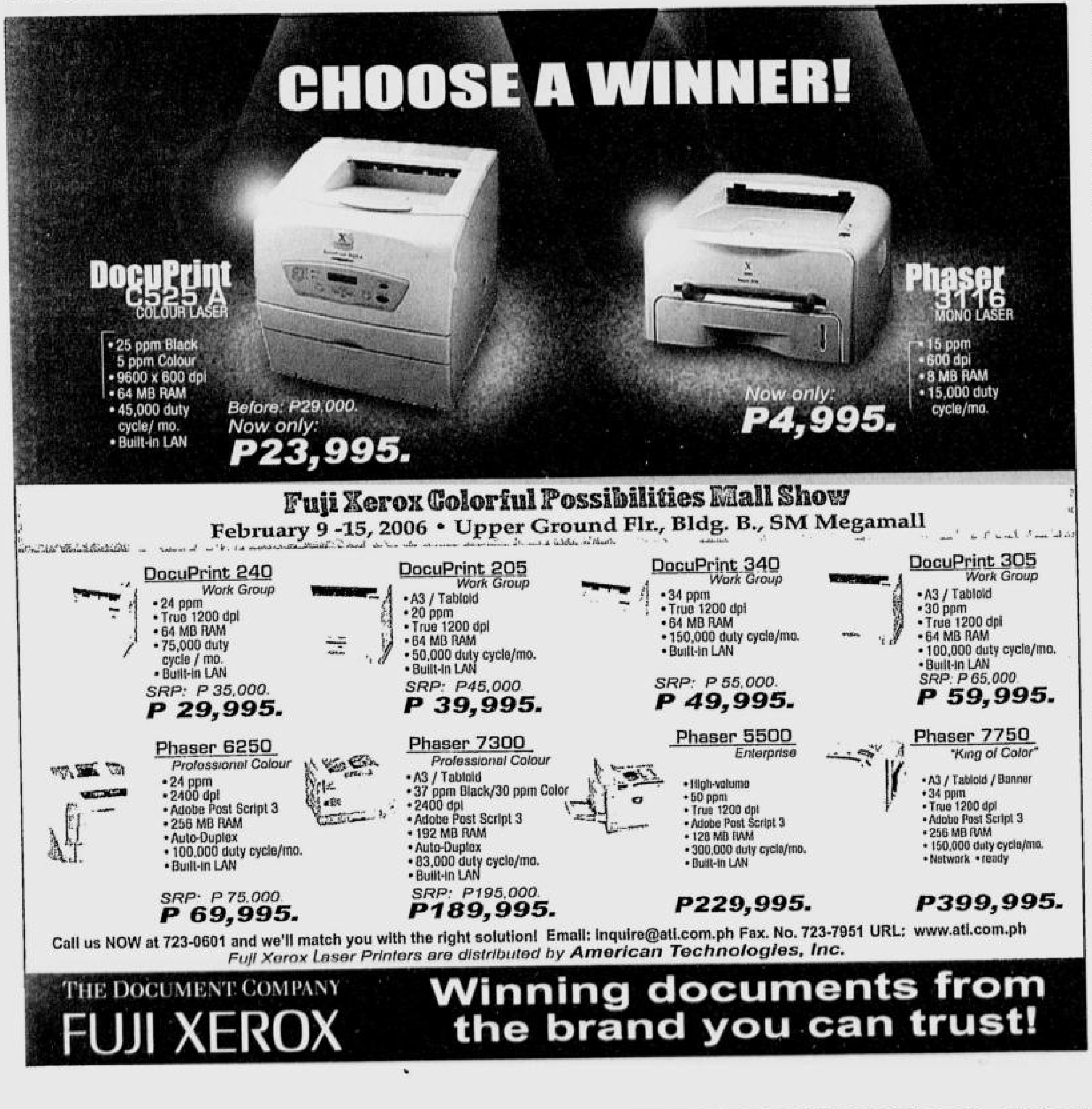

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DocuPrint 205 Work Group
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- 20 ppm
- True 1200 dpi
- 64 MB RAM
- 50,000 duty cycle/mo.
- Built-in LAN

SRP: P45,000 P 39,995.

DocuPrint 340 Work Group
- 34 ppm
- True 1200 dpi
- 64 MB RAM
- 150,000 duty cycle/mo.
- Built-in LAN

SRP: P 55,000. P 49,995.

DocuPrint 305 Work Group
- A3 / Tabloid
- 30 ppm
- True 1200 dpi
- 64 MB RAM
- 100,000 duty cycle/mo.
- Built-in LAN

SRP: P 65,000 P 59,995.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 7, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		FINANCIAL			
		BANKS			
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	138,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	58.5	58	58	707,100
China Banking Corp.	600	605	600	605	29,510
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	60.5	62	60.5	60.5	165,600
International Exch. Bank	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.5	25,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32.5	31	31.5	702,300
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	300
Security Bank Corp.	37.5	38	37.5	38	30,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	7,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS			
Bankard Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	280,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3150	3150	3150	3150	1,060
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	55,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	650
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2140	2145	2140	2145	230
Ivantage Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	200,000
		INDUSTRIAL			
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER			
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	47	47	46	46	290,700
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	21,300
Manila Electric Co. B	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.5	236,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	5,942,000
Petron Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.55	4.6	5,284,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	200,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	190,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO			
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	19,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	19,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37.5	37.5	36	36	308,100
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	98,000
San Miguel Corp. A	62	62.5	62	62.5	184,900
San Miguel Corp. B	85	85.5	85	85	64,600
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES			
Southeast Asian Cement	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	580,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.18	1.24	1.18	1.2	7,313,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.4	4.3	4.4	313,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	70,000
		CHEMICALS			
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.38	80,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	50,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS			
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	4,000,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.07	0.07	7,100,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	5,000
		HOLDING FIRMS			
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	26,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	332.5	332.5	322.5	332.5	49,700
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	340,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	236,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	17,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.24	2.28	2.24	2.24	3,109,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.85	0.85	990,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,755,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.15	1,388,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.26	510,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.2	1.2	6,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.45	4.4	4.45	765,000
Keppel Holdings	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	115,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.23	0.23	3,260,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	650,000
SM Investments Corp.	225	225	221	222	100,460
South China Resources Inc.	0.92	0.94	0.9	0.94	470,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.135	0.145	7,510,000
		PROPERTY			
Ayala Land Inc.	11.25	11.25	10.75	10.75	6,479,300
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	2,560,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	10,270,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.54	1.48	1.5	3,991,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	33,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.22	2,200,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	3,390,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	11,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	2,125,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,600,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.46	7,222,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	20,320,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.1	6	6	124,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	850,000
SM Development Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.3	8	8.1	5,348,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,350,000
		SERVICE			
		MEDIA			
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	161,600
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.9	3,460,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	775	750	750	129,080
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.2	3.25	2,228,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1845	1860	1780	1790	418,400
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.17	2,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	152,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	3,400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.027	0.028	246,400,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES			
Asian Terminals Inc.	2	2	2	2	60,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	141,100
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	1,000,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.26	1.26	15,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE			
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.68	1.68	4,067,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	300,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	110,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.43	3,570,000
		EDUCATION			
iPeople Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	247,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES			
Macroasia Corp.	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.4	81,000
Paxys Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.3	7.4	517,000
		MINING			
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.12	554,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	852,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6	5.9	5.9	798,000
Benguet Corp. A	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	9,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	102,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	26,670,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	12,780,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	45,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	7,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.74	1.76	1.66	1.68	5,610,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.08	1,910,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	27	26.5	27	696,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
		OIL			
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.205	0.19	0.205	160,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	139,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	46,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	170,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	280,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.15	4.15	223,000
		WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.			
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	4,734,300

CURRENCIES

February 7, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.835631	1.000000	51.6980
Japan	Yen	0.007021	0.008402	0.4344
United Kingdom	Pound	1.460600	1.747900	90.3629
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107712	0.128899	6.6638
Switzerland	Franc	0.642398	0.768758	39.7433
Canada	Dollar	0.729045	0.872448	45.1038
Singapore	Dollar	0.512846	0.613723	31.7283
Australia	Dollar	0.620872	0.742997	38.4115
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.217117	2.653224	137.1664
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222841	0.266674	13.7865
Brunei	Dollar	0.511277	0.611845	31.6312
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000109	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021203	0.025374	1.3118
UAE	Dirham	0.227519	0.272272	14.0759
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.196700	61.8670
Argentina	Peso	0.272860	0.326531	16.8810
Brazil	Real	0.382966	0.458296	23.6929
Denmark	Kroner	0.133907	0.160246	8.2844
India	Rupee	0.018931	0.022655	1.1712
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223551	0.267523	13.8304
Mexico	New Peso	0.079919	0.095639	4.9443
New Zealand	Dollar	0.569464	0.681477	35.2310
South Africa	Rand	0.137177	0.164160	8.4867
Korea	Won	0.000867	0.001038	0.0537
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026083	0.031214	1.6137

Toyota sees ...

From page B3

Philippines Inc. said the increased VAT and corporate income tax would halve the sales growth rate of 10.3 percent posted in 2005.

However, Toyota's slowdown is more pronounced as it reported a growth of 21.6 percent to some 35,500 units in 2005 from about 29,000 in 2004.

TMPC has won thrice the industry "triple crown" for selling the most vehicles in the passenger car, commercial vehicle and overall categories.

Also, company outgoing president Nobuharo Tabata said the local Toyota group expected earnings from the export of parts and components to reach $450 million this year, or an increase of about 17.1 percent from the $384 million posted in 2004.

Tabata said the growth in earnings was due to the continuing success of Toyota's IMV (innovative multipurpose vehicle) program for which TMPC invested a total of P7.1 billion in plant expansion and modernization of its production facilities.

Bally, Binay and ballots

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

AN OCCASIONAL PAIR OF BALLY SHOES was enough to lift the spirits of Jejomar Binay during his human rights lawyering days.

Not anymore.

From footwear-aspirational, the former leftist lawyer has turned into a Robin Hood-of-sorts ever since he became the undisputed potentate of Makati, plowing the rich tax pickings from the Ayala district into the city's vote-rich urban poor pockets.

This week and last, the diminutive mayor again had the opportunity to turn up his nose against the chattering class and the Makati mestizos opposed to him with the inauguration of seven public works projects around premier city.

The most visible is the P190-million Makati Central Police Station at the end of Ayala Avenue, across from the fire station and Ayala Land's mid-range condos. Less visible are the swimming pools, computer-equipped schools, drainage network, cement roads and pocket parks that have been built in his Edsa III bailiwicks.

Not content with the famed yellow cards of free medical benefits that he distributes among the indigents, Binay last week also doubled the birthday gifts, to P2,000, that City Hall yearly hands out among the city's senior citizens.

Makati estimates that the city has about 48,000 senior citizens, senior defined as at least 60 years of age.

At a conservative six family members for every senior citizen, that easily translates to 278,000 additional votes.

Makati's hotel boomlet

ANOTHER boutique hotel has risen on the fringe of the Ayala commercial district.

The 10-room Roman Suites across the New World Renaissance on Pasay Road has enjoyed almost daily full bookings since it quietly opened a month ago, helped no doubt by its P1,650/night introductory offer.

On a larger scale, as if sensing the tightening of room supply, Antel Land Holdings has just announced that it is converting its still-to-be-built A. Venue residences, beside Makati's red light district, into a high-end condotel.

A project of the La'O family, A. Venue is a 29-story condo whose buyers of the 356 unit-mix of studios to 3-bedroomers are being enticed to join the planned hotel venture on an 80-20 revenue sharing basis.

Lawyers cut

DEVELOPER/LAWYER Romeo Roxas and his partner Santiago Pastor have been ordered by the Supreme Court to return more than P17 million in lawyers' fees the two collected from their client.

The Supreme Court found "unconscionable" the 44-percent contingent fee that the two lawyers charged in helping the Zuzuarregui family collect the proceeds of the hectares of property in Antipolo that the National Housing Authority expropriated from the landed family in the early '80s.

Even with the reduced fees, Roxas and Pastor would end up with almost P7 million, or about 12.82-percent return for their legal services. Roxas has since been elected as a director of the Philippine Veterans Bank.

Money-go-round

- GREENMEADOWS residents have written to no less than Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and his Singaporean counterpart in Singtel in their fight to dismantle a Globe relay tower in their park, preparatory to a court suit just like what the Dasmariñas Village homeowners' association has resorted to, also against Globe.
- Yuchengco grandchild/lawyer Guia Y. Santos has abruptly resigned her corporate secretary position in various Yuchengco companies to live out her Italian dream.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER intelligence chief Victor Corpuz, now an occasional Pentagon lecturer, is trying to break through the Mafia-dominated garbage disposal business in New York City with his patented environment-friendly system.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Consumer prices rose 6.7% in January

By Michelle V. Remo

CONSUMER PRICES ROSE BY 6.7 percent in January from a year ago as the appreciation of the peso against the dollar helped temper inflationary pressures triggered by the lingering high crude oil costs.

The January inflation rate was slightly higher than the 6.6 percent recorded in December, but reflected a significant deceleration from the 8.4 percent recorded in January 2005. It was also at the low end of the government's forecast of between 6.7 and 7.3 percent.

On a month-on-month basis, consumer prices were higher by 0.7 percent compared with the December price levels.

According to a report by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the 6.7-percent inflation in January was pushed by the increase in prices of services and miscellaneous items.

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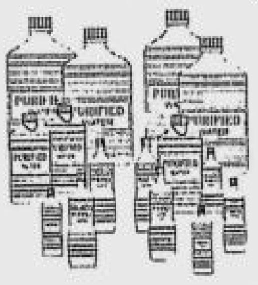

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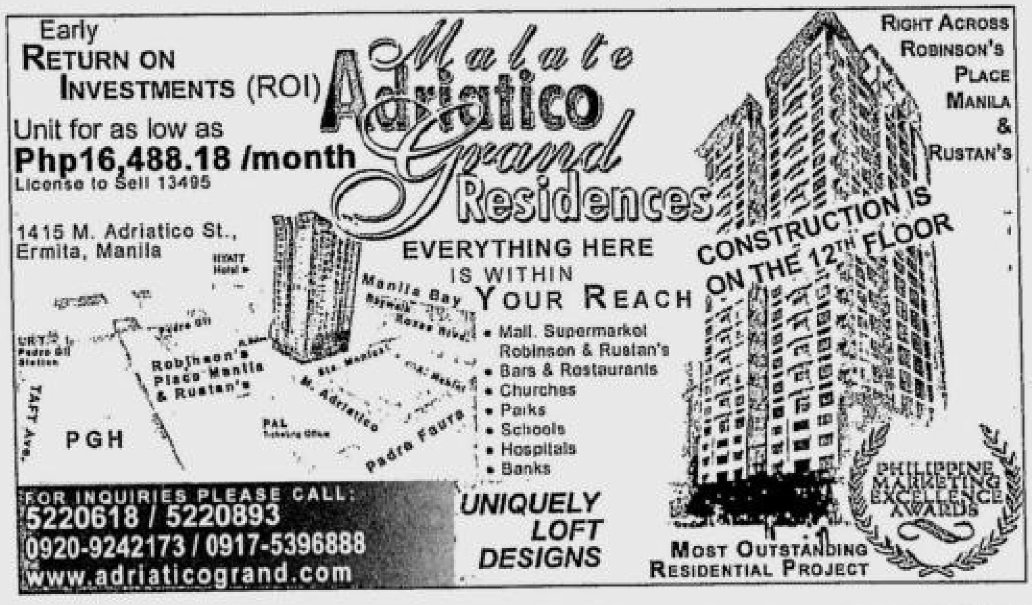

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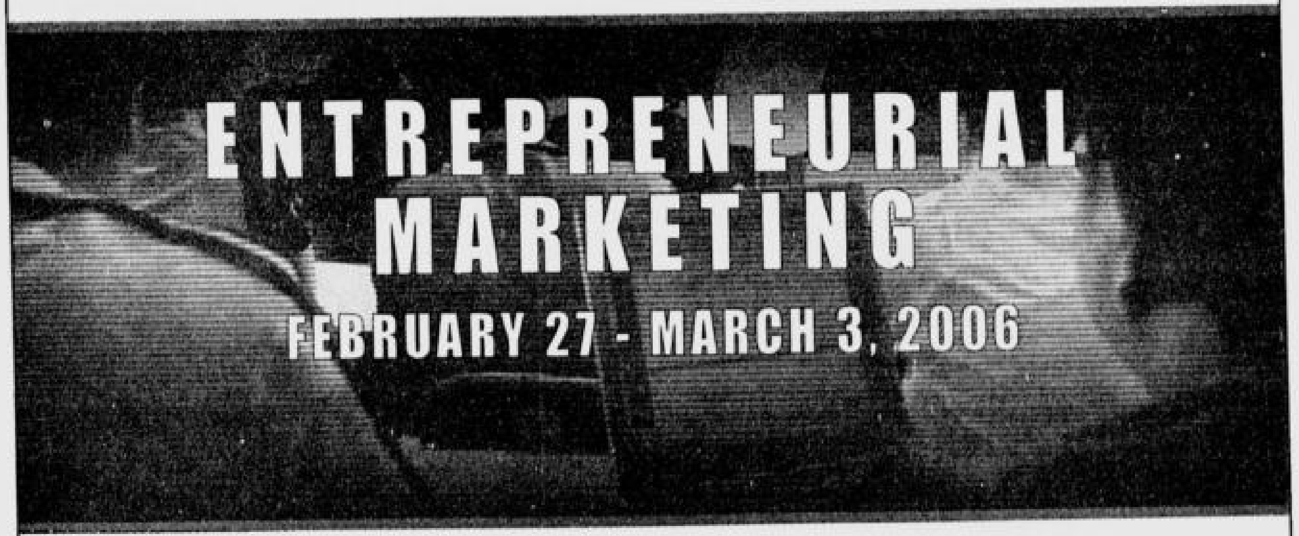

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www.aim.edu

EIB SAVINGS BANK, INC.

Cebu South Road, Barangay Bulacao, Talisay, Cebu City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of December 29, 2005

		AMOUNT
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	682,255
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		973,735
Due from Other Banks		2,090,380
Investments in bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		54,674,935
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net) - Microfinance		9,874,274
Bank Premises, Furnitures, Fixtures & Equipments (Net)		2,000,419
Other Assets (Net):		
Others		568,153
TOTAL ASSETS	P	70,864,151
LIABILITIES		
Savings Deposits		1,139,923
Time Deposits		925,583
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		522,237
Other Liabilities		1,155,634
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	3,743,377
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	50,000,000
Surplus		17,120,774
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	67,120,774
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	70,864,151

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Benjamin P. Castillo
Chairman

Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr.
Director

Alfredo M. Yao
Director

PRINCIPAL OFFICER

Alex A. Pimentel
President

Other Information.	
1. Deposits of: a. Banks	2,090,380
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law: Prescribed Ratio of Compliance / Actual Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises / 24.57%
3. General provision for loan losses	88,796
4. Specific provision for loan losses	4,804,944
5. Return on equity (ROE)	1.03%
6. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

I / WE, Alex A. Pimentel and Benjamin P. Castillo of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) ALEX A. PIMENTEL
President

(Sgd.) BENJAMIN P. CASTILLO
Chairman

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 2nd day of February, 2006, affiant exhibiting to me his/her/their Community Tax No 8784849 issued at Cebu on January 19, 2006 and Community Tax No. 12099808 issued at Manila on January 2, 2006.

Doc. No. 97
Page No. 20
Book No. I
Series of 2006

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E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

MOTORING

COTY UPDATE

6 subcompacts, 5 pickups face off

THE WINNING vehicles will be unveiled at the Manila Motor Show on April 6 to 9 at the World Trade Center. PHOTOS BY ULYSSES ANG (MOTIONCARS.COM)

By Tessa R. Salazar
Ulysses Ang, motioncars.com

SIX MINI CARS (ALSO known as subcompacts) and five pickups were brought last weekend to the "proving grounds" at Forest Hills in Antipolo to compete in their respective categories, and maybe even be judged as the Philippines' Car of the Year for 2006.

Defending category champ Toyota Vios was challenged by the Honda Jazz and City, new hopefuls Kia Picanto, Hyundai Getz GL and Matrix CRDI. General Motors' Aveo, which was unavailable at the time, will prove its mettle at the "makeup sessions" on Feb. 25 and 26.

In the pickup category, 2005 winner Ford Ranger showed off its capabilities against the Isuzu D-Max, Mitsubishi Strada, Toyota Hilux and Nissan Frontier.

With the subcompact and pickup face-offs, the over 60 motoring journalists from the Philippines—comprising the Car Awards Group Inc.—had just concluded the third week of a scheduled two-month test-fest involving putting the 77 vying cars at their paces and casting "ballots" based on the vehicles' actual measured performances and the journalists' "feel" of the drive.

The private track at Forest Hills has been described as having a "good combination" of short straights, sweeping curves and tight corners, with varied elevation changes and steep inclines—perfect for stretching the subject cars' capabilities.

Concluded testfest

The first weekend of the testfest held Jan. 14 and 15 saw the face-off of compact cars such as the Ford Focus 1.8 Ghia, Focus 2.0 Sport, Mitsubishi Lancer MX Limited, Mazda 3 (2 liter), Mazda 3 (1.6-liter) and newcomer Hyundai Accent CRDi.

GM's Optra and Nissan's Sentra, which were unable to join that weekend, will join the makeup sessions on Feb. 26.

The second weekend (Jan. 21 and 22) saw the showdown of multipurpose vehicles Mitsubishi Adventure (category winner for AUVs in 2005), Mitsubishi Grandis, Isuzu Crosswind, Toyota Innova, Chrysler's Town and Country and Hyundai Starex.

The next test-fest weekend—on Feb. 11 and 12—will see Coty-P at its busiest yet, with more than a dozen cars vying for three categories such as the executive, luxury and ultra luxury cars. The weekend of Feb. 18 and 19 will have three categories for SUVs—entry level, luxury and ultra luxury.

The winning vehicles will be announced at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City on March 29. The 2nd Car of the Year-Philippines is supported by Bridgestone, the Manila North Tollways Corp, the Manila Motor Show, Standard Insurance and Federal Express Corp., a company supporting road safety advocate Safe Kids Philippines.

Everything you wanted in a wagon

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AMONG ALL THE CAR MANUFACTURERS IN the Philippines, General Motors is the one with a track record of marketing station wagons. First came the Suzuki Esteem, then the Opel Club Wagon, followed by the Chevrolet (actually a rebadged Opel) Zafira—although the latter was more of a multipurpose vehicle, being a seven-seater.

Having pulled the Esteem, Opel and Zafira out of the market, GM Philippines imported the Chevrolet Optra Wagon from Thailand last month. With the Optra Wagon, GMPh reenters a market niche that is populated by a few, higher-priced European competitors. There are only three other five-seater wagons being sold at present: the Volvo V50 (P2,295,000), Peugeot 307SW (P1,550,000) and Mercedes-Benz B-Class (P2,580,000—all prices quoted before the 2 percent VAT increase).

Expanded version

Just as the Volvo V50 is the wagon version of the Volvo S40 entry-luxury compact sedan and the Peugeot 307SW that of the 307 premium compact sedan, the Optra Wagon is the expanded, family friendly version of the Optra compact sedan. It is 80 mm longer, 3 mm wider and 55 mm higher than the sedan.

The slightly bigger dimensions offer larger and more flexible cargo room than the sedan's. After all, extra luggage space is what station wagons provide better than their sedan counterparts. When the 60/40 split-folding rear seat backrest of the Optra Wagon is pushed down, two golf bags can be accommodated longitudinally with room to spare.

Like the sedan, the Optra Wagon was designed by Pininfarina, the fabled Italian design studio. Other Euro touches in the wagon are a tonneau cover, a cargo net, a Blaupunkt 5-disc in-dash CD changer/tuner/cassette player with six speakers, glass-printed antenna and steering wheel-mounted audio remote controls. All of which are also found in the 1.8-liter LT Optra sedan except for the tonneau cover and cargo net.

1.6-L engine

For some reason, GMPh decided to equip the wagon with the sedan's 1.6-liter engine, not the 1.8 powerplant that produces 121 PS/5,800 rpm and 163 Nm/4,000 rpm max torque. Thus the bigger, heavier wagon makes do with 110 PS/5,800 rpm and 150 Nm/4,000 rpm peak torque. But hey, if you find the Skyway almost empty one day, stand on the gas pedal long enough and the Optra Wagon, with no heavy cargo in the back, will eventually hit 140 kph.

Maybe GMPh had the soaring oil prices in mind when it chose the 1.6-liter engine. Also that station wagons are built not for high performance, but to carry family members and their belongings in quiet, sedan-like comfort and MPV-like spaciousness without having to grapple with the size and weight of a van or an SUV. I'll admit that the 4-cylinder DOHC 16-valve E-TEC II engine has enough spunk to nip and tuck the Optra Wagon in and out of city traffic.

THE CHEVROLET Optra Wagon
AIDA SEVILLA MENDOZA

Quiet

What I like most about the Optra wagon, aside from its superb Blaupunkt sound system, is its refined, quiet ride. The wagon has the same Euro-Ride Tuning Suspension System as the sedan with McPherson struts, coil spring stabilizer and gas shock absorbers in front and Dual Link Suspension at the rear. Plus an efficient total noise reduction system that absorbs shock and suppresses road and engine noise.

What I don't like is the dull gray interior and the generally lackadaisical powerplant. Perhaps when oil prices stabilize—if they ever will—GMPh will upgrade the engine to a 1.8 or even a 2.0.

Safety

On the other hand, the Optra Wagon is almost complete in safety features with disc brakes on all four wheels, 4-channel, 4-sensor ABS with EBD, remote keyless entry and trunk lid opener, engine immobilizer and security system, reinforced cabin structure and 3-point ELR seatbelts for the driver and front seat passenger. But, like the sedan, it has only one airbag.

Still, given its Pininfarina styling, quiet and comfy ride, roomy cargo area, excellent stereo system and nearly complete safety equipment, the Optra Wagon at P804,000 for the manual transmission and P850,000 for the AT is a neat bargain considering the price tags of the other five-seater station wagons on the market.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Make yourself at home—clean my kitchen.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.net.ph.

Isuzu retains crown; Sayonara Tabata-san

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

INDEED, WHEN IT COMES TO diesel-powered pickups, Isuzu appears always unbeatable. Its D-Max was No. 1 again in 2005, making the pickup champion for the second straight year.

Sales of 2,440 D-Max units in 2005 gave Isuzu a commanding 35.2 percent share of the market.

Not only did D-Max, launched in 2003, embellish Isuzu's undisputed leadership in the diesel business.

Isuzu also reigned supreme in the categories of light-, medium- and heavy-duty trucks. The N-Series light truck was again No. 1 in its class for the seventh consecutive year, selling 888 units or an overwhelming market share of 68.3 percent. The F-Series medium truck also dominated its class, moving 189 units for a 71.9-percent market share. Not surprisingly, Isuzu also bested its rivals in the heavy-duty truck category, with a remarkable 73.1-percent market share.

Well, what can I say?

Congratulations to Art Balmadrid, Myrna Gonzales and Timmy Naval, Isuzu's Terrific Trio all these years! Quarterbacking the Terrific Trio, of course, is Ronald "Isuzu Joe" Baladad. Cheers!

* * *

It's true. Many car buffs beat the start of the EVAT implementation by buying cars in advance. Buyers found to their "delight" the big savings they had acquired. Had they not bought the car of their fancy before the implementation of the new EVAT, they would have shelled out thousands more in post-EVAT times.

See what I mean?

The new EVAT hardly affects the wealthy.

You have the money, you can buy a car anytime—new EVAT or not. A friend of mine bought three vehicles only last month.

The government says it needed the new EVAT to generate more government earnings.

Who are they fooling?

The new EVAT punishes the poor more than the wealthy.

Who among the middle-class in this country can buy a vehicle with the flick of a finger?

Many of them, if not all of them, need financing loans to be able to buy their dream cars, right? I myself can't buy mine all by myself. I need the INQUIRER to get me one if I needed to get one.

Thus, with the new EVAT, I'm not too sure now if our car companies can meet their sales targets this year. My fellow average income earners will now think twice before they buy a car. Most likely, they'd go for a house and lot, if not acquire a lot on installment basis.

These are difficult times but, well, when we say that, it does not mean the wealthy are as affected as the middle class, not to mention our brothers and sisters living in poverty line levels.

* * *

BMW KLASSIK. Willy Tee Ten will host friends to the BMW Klassik launch on Feb. 10 (Friday) on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Dubbed "Embracing the BMW Tradition," Willy, who plays good golf, wants his friends and guests to be in business attire.

* * *

SAYONARA. The official goodbye for Nobuharu Tabata, the outgoing president of Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., is on Feb. 15. On that day, Tabata-san will turn over the reins of TMP leadership to Hiroshi Ito, who's coming in from New Zealand where there are 4 million people against 40 million sheep. TMP Corp. chair, Dr. George S.K. Ty, has invited his friends and Toyota supporters to the occasion. Like all the rest of the invitees, I need to be in formal attire, too. Coat and tie a.k.a. Japanese casual in Japan. An honored guest in the person of Akira Okabe, the senior managing director of Toyota Motor Corp. of Japan, will be around to witness the turnover rites. Again, sayonara, Tabata-san. Your record of making Toyota the Triple Crown winner four years in a row during your four years of stint here is absolutely remarkable. Good luck!

* * *

QUOTE ME. Yell not at your fellow driver or you'll be yelled at, too.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net.

One person, one car?

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

HOW MANY CARS DOES A SINGLE PERSON require to fulfill their everyday transportation needs in Metro Manila? Fifteen years ago, one was the magic number. A single vehicle could provide all the personal transport needs of the urban individual. This was both logical and ideal, as there is great parity in the one man/woman, one car equation. Owning two cars was a complete luxury, just something that allowed one to break the monotony of using the same vehicle day in and day out.

Then the traffic reduction schemes happened and things have gotten a little more absurd and surreal. It seems as if the trade-off for the reduced congestion is the fact that one now needs to have two cars to travel as they wish, seven days a week, in our little metropolis. The whole "two cars per person" idea barely makes any sense, but it is a reality we must live with. That's such an elitist idea to propose with consumption that is rather too conspicuous for this day, in this age, isn't it?

Use of public transport

Alright, I'll admit that the proper solution to the preposterous but true proposition above is the use of public transport. Oh, is that all it'll take then. OK, thanks for the advice and everyone just get on with their lives then, sorry for the bother. What a load of watery gasoline. The suggestion for a substantial, if not wholesale, return to "going public" is not as clear cut as it may seem. I've had to use a lot of public transportation as of late, albeit of the taxi variety, and it has confirmed what many of us have known for the longest time.

The combination of our overburdened road network, the burgeoning number of vehicles and the deterioration of the Filipino's driving habits are going to doom us into comprehensive gridlock in a very short amount of time. No single party is to blame, as we are all guilty of adding to the vehicular constriction situation.

Asphyxiating traffic

Traffic, in fact is probably one of the most egalitarian institutions in our nation. From the bleary eyed bus driver, diving for fares to the lane swerving, Ayala Avenue suit in his company-supplied luxury sedan—the blame for congestion crosses all sections of Philippine society. How can this ailment be soothed if not treated altogether? Here are two simple solutions for aspirating the flow of our asphyxiating traffic.

First, we must institute stricter and more challenging testing for the issuance of licenses. Let's not kid ourselves; anyone can get a permit from the Philippine government to drive on our public roads, making a hazardous situation all the more lethal. I'm sure there will be those who'll say, "How can that be, Mr. Palma? I'm sure there are checks and balances that make sure only the able are granted the license to drive."

That kind of blasé rhetoric is clearly indicative of why we are in the dank stink that we are in now. I personally know one driver who learned how to read and write only after he got his driver's license, and a red professional one at that. I'll let the public muse as to how he got around the written test that one takes for such licenses.

Though said once illiterate is a skilled and intuitive wheelman, whatever innate ability he has to operate an automobile is made useless by the fact that he cannot, even to this day, read a complete English sentence. I really don't want to state the obvious, but isn't there something utterly wrong with this situation?

Rewarding those who follow

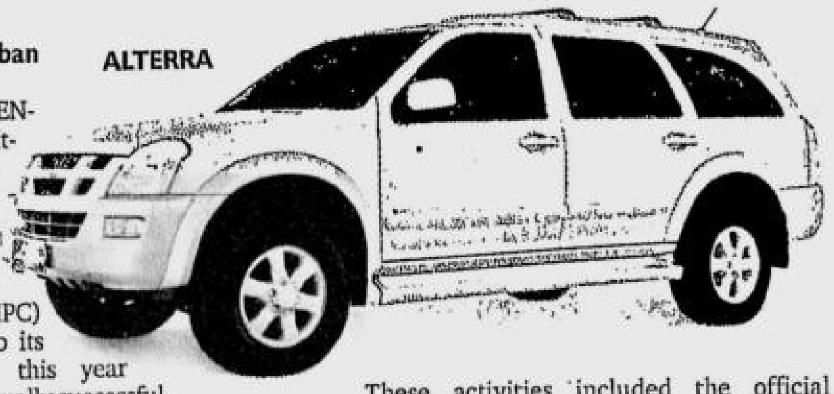
A great driving mentor and part-time philosopher once said, "Why do we always focus on penalizing those who don't follow instead of rewarding those who follow?" The next, less bureaucratic solution is to encourage people to car pool or share the empty seats in their nice new cars.

Can we not institute incentives and rewards plans for private vehicles that use up their full capacity? Why not lift the coding schemes for private vehicles that are full to their legal capacity? What about an express car pool lane in the major thoroughfares? The creativity and effectivity of any such programs are up to the imagination and drive of those in government.

Why all the fervor and fuss about a situation that's plagued us for so long and has become rather tolerated already? We must go back to the simple equations at the beginning of this piece and ask ourselves how it has come to this. Have we allowed the use of our cars to be taken from us because of our own behavior? That is quite the possibility, now it is up to us to change so we can have our mobility back.

Isuzu looks forward to '06 as another banner year

By Charles E. Buban


ALTERRA

THE 2005 CALENDAR year was exciting time for commercial vehicle and diesel engine maker Isuzu Philippines Corp. (IPC) and according to its top executives, this year promises to be equally successful.

"While it is too early to know if any time soon Isuzu will make a similar sales mark this year, we're very encouraged by the fact that customer support for our products has remained firm," said IPC EVP Kazuhiko Sho. "We will see what 2006 has in store, but barring industry-wide downturn or other unforeseen developments, solid gains are predicted."

Among the significant achievements of IPC are D-Max's continued dominance in the pickup segment last year—with 2,440 units sold—garnering a 35.2 percent market share.

This marks the second consecutive year that the Isuzu pickup has led in its category since its launch in November 2003.

Topped trucks category

Sho also reported that IPC topped (and for the seventh consecutive year) the light-, medium- and heavy-duty trucks category last year when its N-Series light trucks garnered a 68.3 percent market share after selling 888 units; F-Series medium trucks garnered a 71.9 percent market share after selling 189 units; and C&E heavy-duty trucks garnered 73.1-percent market share.

"What contributed to Isuzu's success last year was IPC's excellent product line as well as their corresponding marketing campaigns throughout the year that consisted of well-timed product launches and strategic media and public activities," said IPC marketing and sales division VP Ken Takashima.

These activities included the official launch of the company's Powertrain business in August.

First time

"For the first time in the local auto industry, an automotive company has officially made available its diesel engines for industrial, marine and automotive applications, which spelled good news for the country's marine industry, operators and assemblers of jeepneys, and owners of bus and truck fleets," said Takashima.

Also equally helpful for the company was the relaunch of its much-improved website (www.isuzuphil.com) in November that enabled IPC to better serve its customers who would want to get company updates or check Isuzu's vehicle lineup on-line.

IPC also introduced several vehicles including the Alterra sports recreational vehicle in May (with the 4x4 version coming later in December) as well as the 2006 Crosswind multipurpose vehicle.

While the 3.0-liter Alterra provided IPC a high-end sporty family vehicle to market in the mold of its outgoing Trooper model, the 2006 Crosswind, on the other hand, is an improvement from its predecessor with its classier interior and exterior appointments as well as new body colors.

"Indeed, we succeeded because IPC has offered a variety of vehicle models, promoted them effectively and was able to get full support of the media that helped bring our brand much faster to our customers," said Sho.

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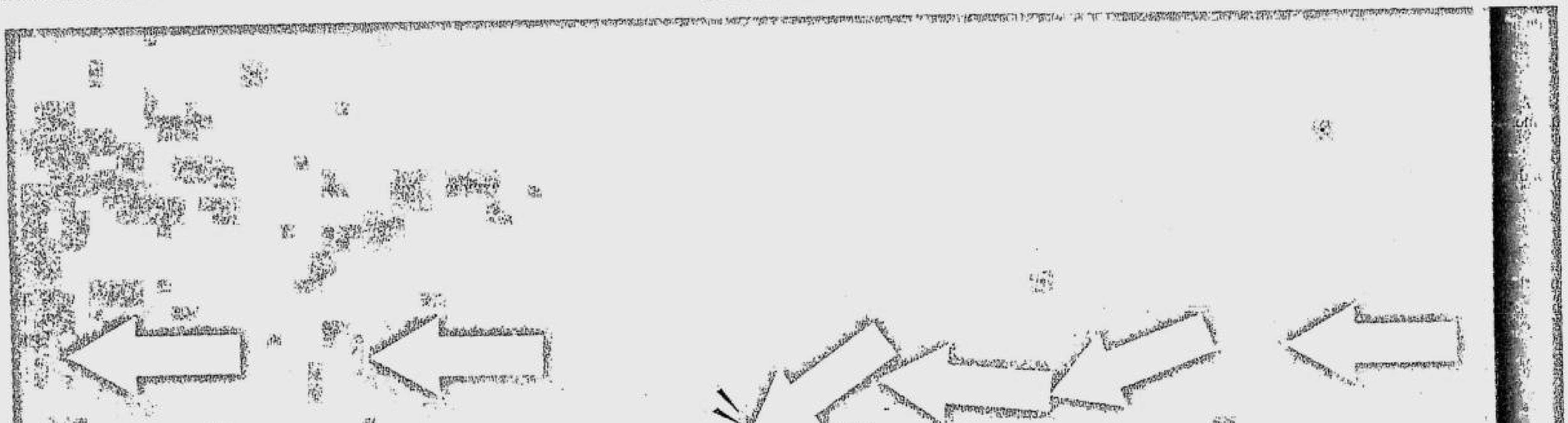

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We at Toyota believe that if we make our roads safer, not only do we save human lives, we move towards making both economic and social progress possible.

Take the right turn in road traffic safety. Join us in supporting the Society of Philippine Motoring Journalists' (SPMJ) "Early Warning" project on Road Traffic Safety Education of School Children and the Road Traffic Safety Conferences of the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

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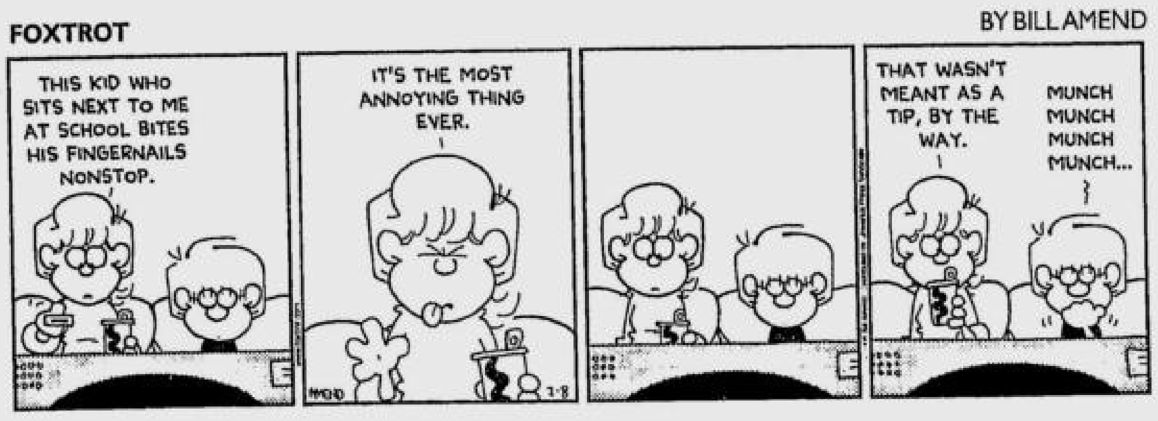
moving forward ▶

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

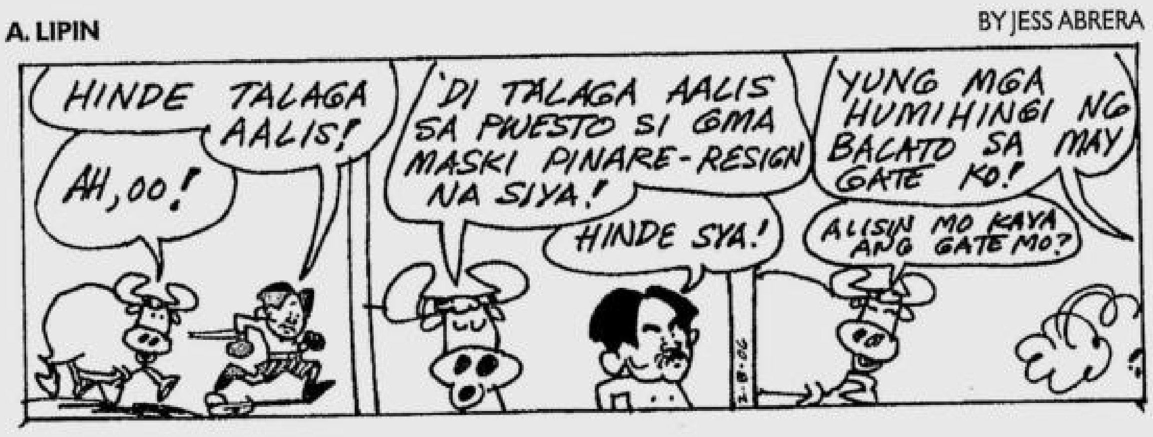
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


THIS KID WHO SITS NEXT TO ME AT SCHOOL BITES HIS FINGERNAILS NONSTOP.
IT'S THE MOST ANNOYING THING EVER.
THAT WASN'T MEANT AS A TIP, BY THE WAY.
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH...

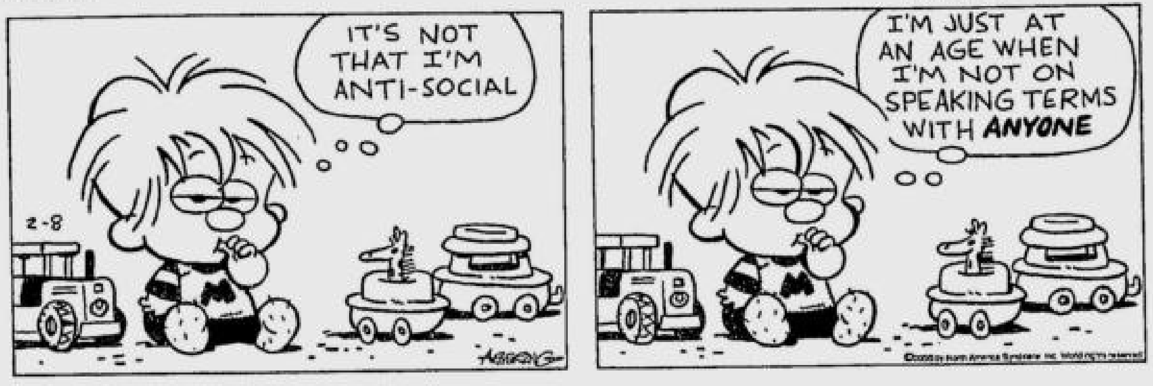
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HINDE TALAGA AALIS!
AH, OO!
'DI TALAGA AALIS SA PWESTO SI GMA MASKI PINARE-RESIGN NA SIYA!
HINDE SYA!
YUNG MGA HUMIHINGI NG BACATO SA MAY GATE KO!
ALISIN MO KAYA ANG GATE MO?
2-8-06

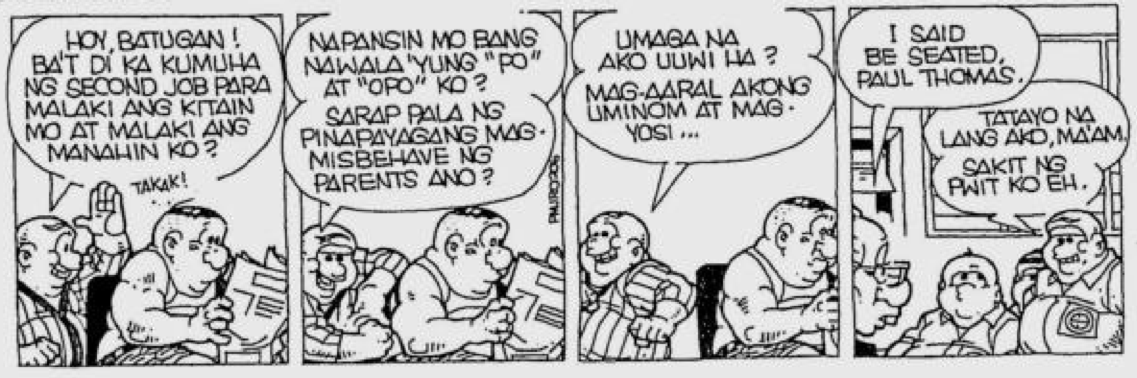
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IT'S NOT THAT I'M ANTI-SOCIAL
I'M JUST AT AN AGE WHEN I'M NOT ON SPEAKING TERMS WITH ANYONE
2-8

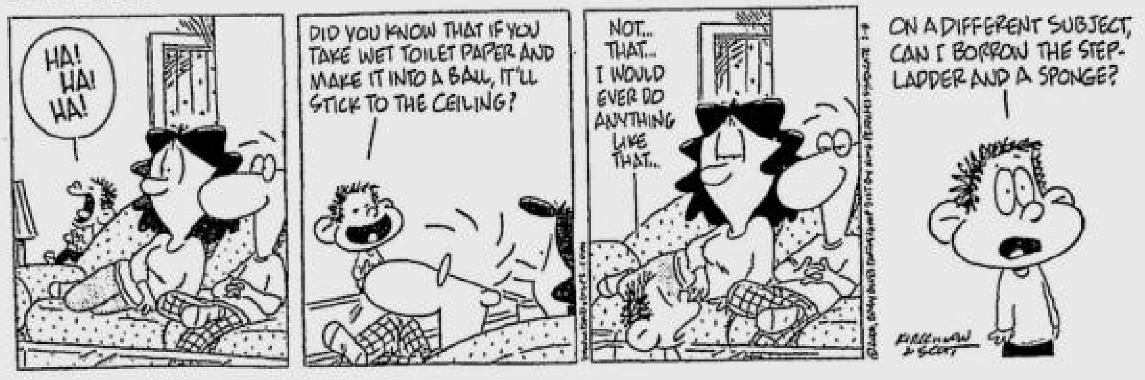
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HOY, BATUGAN! BA'T DI KA KUMUHA NG SECOND JOB PARA MALAKI ANG KITAIN MO AT MALAKI ANG MANAHIN KO?
TAKAK!
NAPANSIN MO BANG NAWALA 'YUNG "PO" AT "OPO" KO?
SARAP PALA NG PINAPAYAGANG MAG-MISBEHAVE NG PARENTS ANO?
UMAGA NA AKO UUWI HA?
MAG-AARAL AKONG UMINOM AT MAG-YOSI...
I SAID BE SEATED, PAUL THOMAS.
TATAYO NA LANG AKO, MA'AM. SAKIT NG PWIT KO EH.

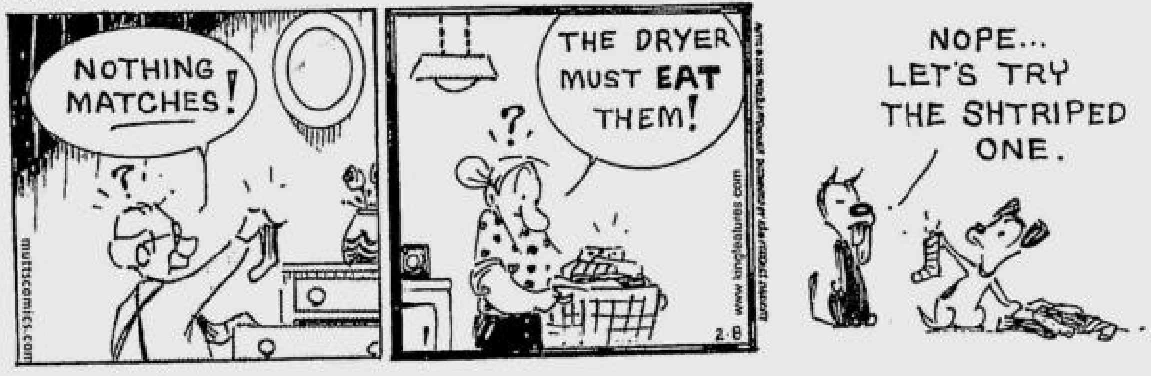
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HA! HA! HA!
DID YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU TAKE WET TOILET PAPER AND MAKE IT INTO A BALL, IT'LL STICK TO THE CEILING?
NOT... THAT... I WOULD EVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, CAN I BORROW THE STEP-LADDER AND A SPONGE?

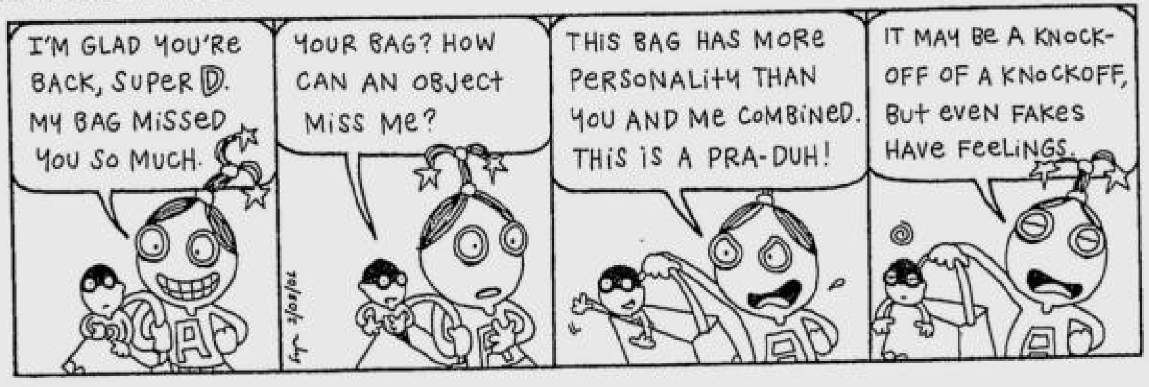
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


NOTHING MATCHES!
THE DRYER MUST EAT THEM!
NOPE... LET'S TRY THE SHTRIPED ONE.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
2-8

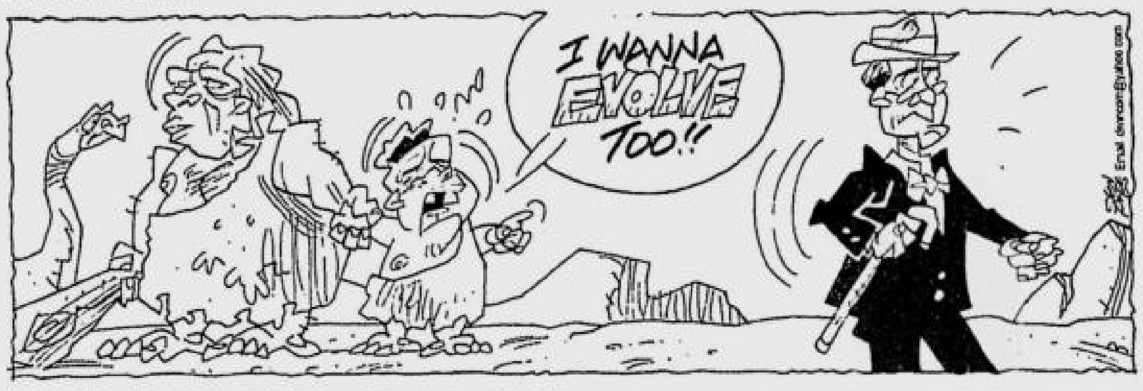
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M GLAD YOU'RE BACK, SUPER D. MY BAG MISSED YOU SO MUCH.
YOUR BAG? HOW CAN AN OBJECT MISS ME?
THIS BAG HAS MORE PERSONALITY THAN YOU AND ME COMBINED. THIS IS A PRA-DUH!
IT MAY BE A KNOCK-OFF OF A KNOCKOFF, BUT EVEN FAKES HAVE FEELINGS.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


I WANNA EVOLVE TOO!!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very psychic and intuitive. Nevertheless, you study whatever you approach very carefully. You're a great planner. Many of you have top technical skills. You have a fine sense of timing. In the year ahead, you will give up something you've been involved with for about nine years. It's time to move on.
Birthdate of: James Dean, actor; Gary Coleman, actor; Nick Nolte, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next few months, you'll want to be alone to study or be quiet. It's OK to withdraw from others. You need privacy to do your work properly.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're entering a 10-week period of increased activity. Get ready for increased reading and writing, studying and short trips. Conversations with others become fascinating to you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): In the next two months, conversations with bosses, parents and VIPs are increasingly important. These months are also a good time to make long-range plans for the future.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Because your interest in the world around you is increasing, travel and study are excellent choices for you in the next few months ahead. Any new and interesting phenomenon will appeal to you. You'll be curious about everything!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): In the next 10 weeks, negotiations about shared property will take place. Be clear about what you own and what your obligations are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today Mercury begins to move into position directly opposite your sign. It is very rare for it to be opposite your sign for 10 weeks. Now is the time to clarify things with others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The next few months are an excellent time for mental work and health concerns. You'll have high expectations for yourself. Nothing will be too much trouble; you'll pay attention to details!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): All creative activities are blessed in the next 10 weeks. Expect to read, write, draw and explore the performing arts.

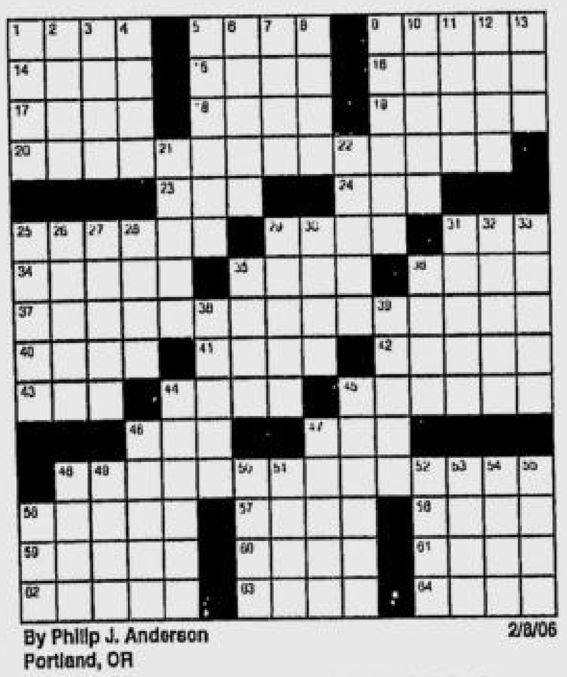
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): As Mercury hovers at the bottom of your chart for the next 10 weeks, family discussions help you learn something new about your past. You can use this.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The next two months are active! It's not a good time to settle down and relax. Group discussions, short trips and intellectual activities will appeal to you now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today Mercury moves into Pisces, signifying that you should delve into your financial affairs with greater interest. Expect to be shopping more than usual in the next 10 weeks as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Today Mercury enters your sign, where it will stay for 10 weeks. (This is rare.) Expect to be talkative, extra-curious and active! Your busy mind will jump from topic to topic.

DAILY CROSSWORD

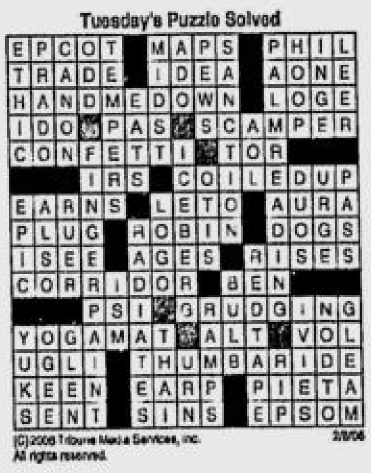


By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
2/8/06

ACROSS
1 Throw
5 Docile
9 Elements of the whole
14 Hydrox rival
15 Spacewalks, in NASA-speak
16 Online trade?
17 Ray
18 Pravda source
19 __ Claus
20 Cost-cutting singing group?
23 Cicero's lang.
24 Pugilistic poet
25 Oxidized
29 Relieve
31 Lith. or Azer., once
34 John or Sean
35 Berne's river
36 James of R&B
37 Cost-cutting singing group?
40 Big rig
41 Raw minerals
42 Sibling of one's mere or pere
43 Hosp. areas
44 Kind of thermometer
45 Quenches
46 Cleanup hitter's stats
47 Gasteyer of SNL
48 Cost-cutting singing group?
56 Papal vestment
57 Rival rival
58 Singer Guthrie
59 Greek column type
60 Ooze
61 Turner of Hollywood
62 Authoritative decree
63 Coop layers
64 Comic Carolla

DOWN
1 Actor Lee J.
2 Carpet calculation
3 Burn slightly
4 Mausoleum
5 Set of four
6 Hold it, sailor!
7 Alda sitcom
8 Exxon, once
9 Mashing tool
10 Video-game name
11 Raja's wife
12 Yugoslavian leader
13 P. Hearst's kidnappers
21 1985 Malkovich film
22 VW model
25 Dustin in "Midnight Cowboy"
26 Wedding-party member
27 Plant parts
28 Heyerdahl's "Kon-__"
29 Studio stand
30 __ and crafts
31 Mired
32 Inscribed stone pillar
33 Costs per unit
35 Taj Mahal location
36 Novelist Ferber
38 Water wheel
39 Fastballer Ryan
44 Thing
45 Uses too much nose
46 Old treasure
47 Colorado resort
48 Walked heavily
49 Spy Mata
50 "Ring of Fire" singer
51 Swiss artist
52 FDR's dog
53 Toward the mouth
54 Forearm bone
55 Wander
56 Poetic tribute

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



E	P	C	O	T	■	M	A	P	S	■	P	H	I	L
T	R	A	D	E	■	I	D	E	A	■	A	O	N	E
H	A	N	D	M	E	D	O	W	N	■	L	O	G	E
I	D	O	■	P	A	S	■	S	C	A	M	P	E	R
C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I	■	T	O	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	R	S	■	C	O	I	L	E	D	U	P
E	A	R	N	S	■	L	E	T	O	■	A	U	R	A
P	L	U	G	■	R	O	B	I	N	■	D	O	G	S
I	S	E	E	■	A	G	E	S	■	R	I	S	E	S
C	O	R	R	I	D	O	R	■	B	E	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	S	I	■	G	R	U	D	G	I	N	G
Y	O	G	A	M	A	T	■	A	L	T	■	V	O	L
U	G	L	I	■	T	H	U	M	B	A	R	I	D	E
K	E	E	N	■	E	A	R	P	■	P	I	E	T	A
S	E	N	T	■	S	I	N	S	■	E	P	S	O	M

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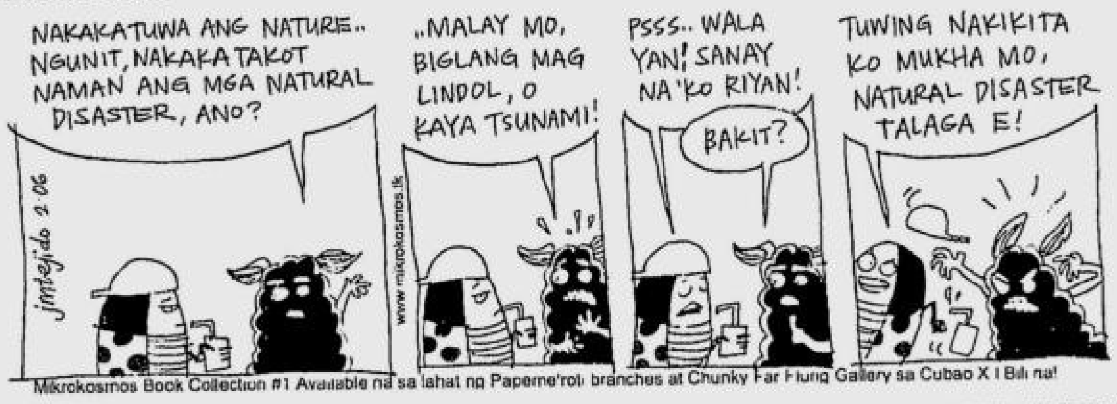
2/8/06

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKAKATUWA ANG NATURE.. NGUNIT, NAKAKATAKOT NAMAN ANG MGA NATURAL DISASTER, ANO?
..MALAY MO, BIGLANG MAG LINDOL, O KAYA TSUNAMI!
PSSS.. WALA YAN! SANAY NA'KO RIYAN!
BAKIT?
TUWING NAKIKITA KO MUKHA MO, NATURAL DISASTER TALAGA E!
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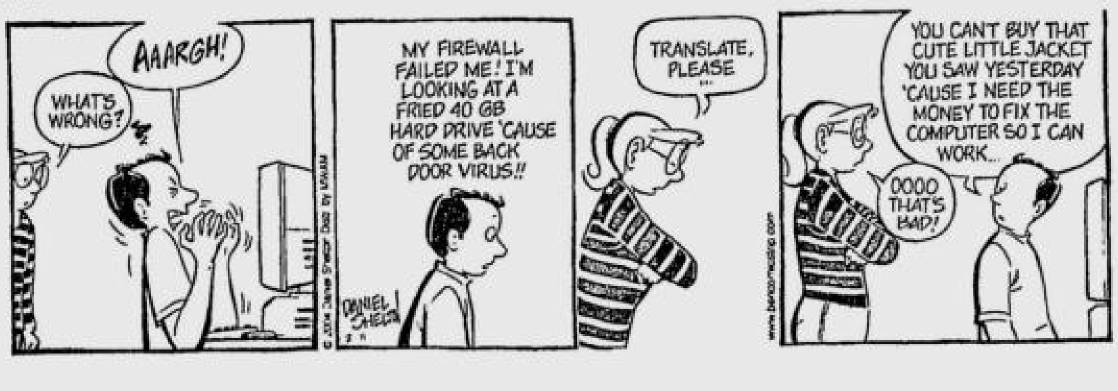
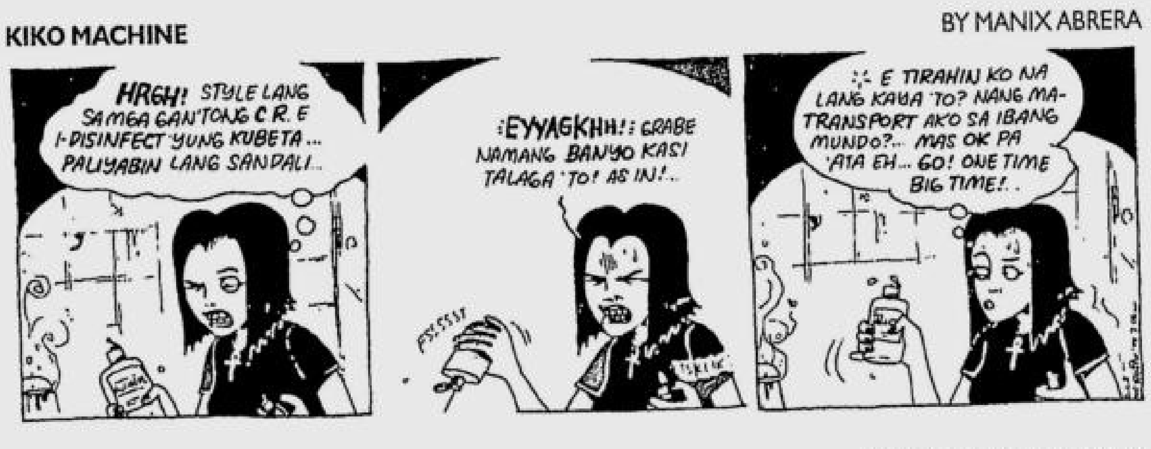
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAARGH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
MY FIREWALL FAILED ME! I'M LOOKING AT A FRIED 40 GB HARD DRIVE 'CAUSE OF SOME BACK DOOR VIRUS!!
TRANSLATE, PLEASE
YOU CAN'T BUY THAT CUTE LITTLE JACKET YOU SAW YESTERDAY 'CAUSE I NEED THE MONEY TO FIX THE COMPUTER SO I CAN WORK...
OOOO THAT'S BAD!

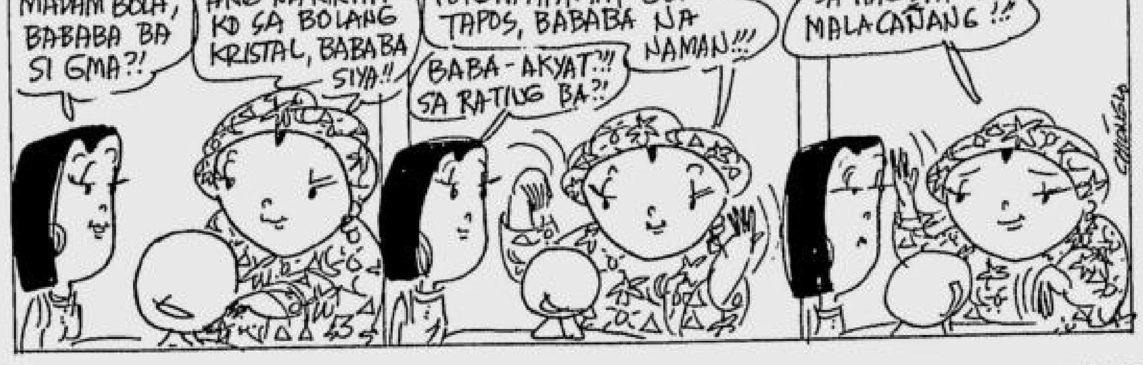
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRGH! STYLE LANG SA MGA GANTONG C.R. E I-DISINFECT 'YUNG KUBETA... PALIYABIN LANG SANDALI...
:EYYAGKHH!: GRABE NAMANG BANYO KASI TALAGA 'TO! AS IN!..
PSSSST
:.: E TIRAHIN KO NA LANG KAYA 'TO? NANG MA-TRANSPORT AKO SA IBANG MUNDO?.. MAS OK PA 'ATA EH... GO! ONE TIME BIG TIME!..

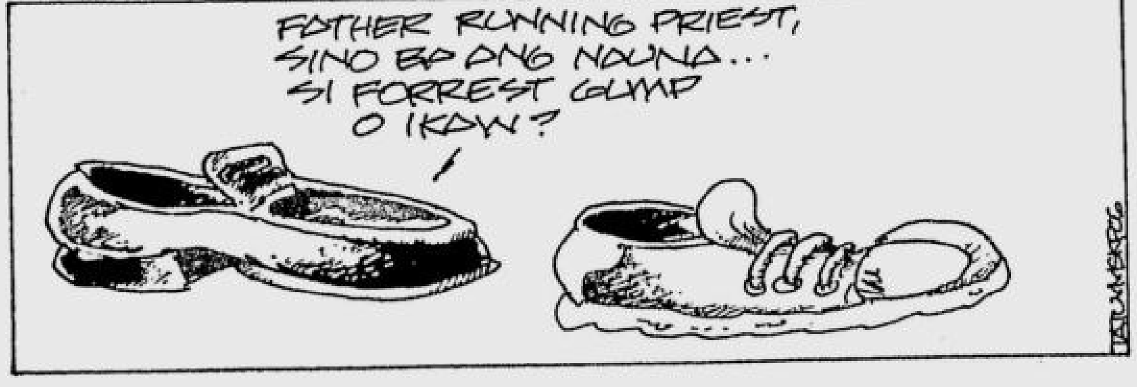
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MADAM BOLA, BABABA BA SI GMA?!
ANG NAKIKITA KO SA BOLANG KRISTAL, BABABA SIYA!!
PERO... AAKYAT ULI!!! TAPOS, BABABA NA NAMAN!!!
BABA-AKYAT!!! SA RATILES BA?!
SA HAGDAN NG MALACAÑANG!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


FATHER RUNNING PRIEST, SINO BA ANG NAUNA... SI FORREST GUMP O IKAW?

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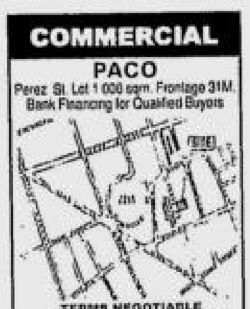

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of an Extrajudicial Settlement executed by the heirs of the deceased ELEANOR C. FLORES also known as Ma. Eleanor C. Flores over her estate before Notary Public Benigno M. Puno of Pasig City, under Doc. No. 389, Page No. 79, Book No IX, Series of 2006.

(PDI--Feb. 8, 15 & 22, 2006)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

91 Units of PC Desktop under PV-601301/40L/451/503
Approved Budget Php4,914,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Winthrop Z. Gutierrez** starting January 31, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **February 03, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement Department, Ground Floor, Building 5 at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department Office Wall Clock Time) of February 16, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(PDI–Feb. 1 & 8, 2006)

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

I, Praxedes R. Luna do hereby notice public that the parcel of land at Bambang Pasig City left by Roman Santos had sworn an affidavit of adjudication notarized by Atty. Ernesto F. Bonifacio of Pasig City with Doc. No. 384, Page No. 78, Book No. 60, Series of 1999. (PDI-Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 2006)

Notice is herbey given that the estate of the late Hermilo Soliman Trias has been extra-judicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Benedicta F. Barrientsos as per Doc. 116, Page# 25, Book # XI, Series of 2005 (PDI-February 1, 8 & 15, 2006)

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc. Pob. Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of AUG. '05 on FEB. 24, 2006 11am- Lanuza & Sons (PDI - February 08, 2006)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby being given that spouses EDWIN and AMELIA RESURRECCION of No. 87 Binhing Pag-Asa St., Taytay, Rizal are looking for 3-C Commercial Credit and Lending Investor which last held office at Leoncio Building, Rizal Ave., Taytay, Rizal in favor of which they have executed a Deed of Mortgage in the Sum of FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) on May 29, 1992 for purposes of redeeming their property and payment of the amount of mortgage. (PDI-Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 2006)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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More Classified Ads on pages A6, A14, A15, A17, B2 & B4

Mazda Makati: Newest world-class cars showroom

PASONG TAMO IS host to the newest automotive dealer in town – Mazda Makati.

The new dealership is strategically located, being in the country's business capital and bustling commercial area and near residential areas. Thus, the place is ideal for both sales and service.

Mazda Makati had its grand launching recently. The facility takes pride in adopting the "zoom-zoom" (love of motion experienced as a child) showroom design concept which is a plain and simple expression of what Mazda is and stands for. The color scheme and designs of various automotive models in the showroom will indeed stick to the minds of its clientele.

Moreover, Mazda Makati boasts of a world-class cars showroom which can accommodate up to 10 cars display. It has ample and spacious parking for customers. The parts and service department will open soon and from then on offer after sales service and spare parts.

Through aggressive marketing, customer focus and quality service, Mazda Makati foresees strong sales this year and the years to come with the entry of new generation models such as Mazda 3, Hatchback, Mazda 6 and Tribute, as well as increased global demand. Mazda has been banking on an illustrious history of engineering innovation, dedication to developing vehicles that are distinctive and innovative using the latest and most advanced technologies to satisfy the diverse needs of motorists worldwide.

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

"Come to Me, all you
who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."
(Matthew 11:28)

RODOLFO A. TIRONA, JR.

Passed away in the Grace
of our Lord on February 6, 2006
at the age of 75.

He will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife **Julie**; children **Ina** and **Grant**, **Rod**, **Triccie**, **Leah** and **Nino** and **Ted**; his grandchildren; his sisters **Fely**, **Dolly** and **Charry**; and all his nephews and nieces.

His body lies in state at the Lumbang Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Funeral Mass will be on Friday, February 10, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lumbang Chapel.

Interment will follow at the Manila Memorial Park immediately after the Mass.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith
(2 Timothy 4)

Surely goodness and love
will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house
of the Lord forever. – Psalms 23:6

We, the children,
Nicasio and Milagros, Felicisimo and Evelyn,
Tomas, Editha, Rosvida and Paul Dominguez,
Alejandro and Rose
and
the grandchildren of the late

Ladislawa Inquimboy Alcantara

who joined the Lord on January 15, 2006

wish to thank you, our relatives and friends,
for being with us in our time of grief.

Your kindness and expressions of sympathy
are greatly appreciated.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
PAZ
Tel. Nos. Q.C.: 712-3001 • 743-6502: Mla: 711-6931 to 35

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF [illegible]	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Tomas C. Dirige	Chapel K, Q.C.	Feb. 09, 2006/9:00 AM	Paz Crematory
Henry Sychebun	Chapel A-3, Q.C	Feb. 10, 2006/10:00 AM	Chinese Crematory
Tommy Chua Tung	Chapel C-15, Q.C.	to be announced	to be announced

Peso still on rally mode, hits 51.65:$1

With strengthening currency, Monetary Board likely to maintain key rates

By Doris C. Dumlao and Christine O. Avendaño

THE PESO YESTERDAY GAVE UP some gains to close at 51.65 to the US dollar against Monday's closing of 51.605:$1.

Also, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board is likely to keep steady its key overnight rates during its next monthly policy rate setting Thursday.

Currency traders said the oversold dollar partly contributed to the recovery and forced the peso to enter a consolidation phase.

The traders believe that the local currency will continue to strengthen.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the overnight rates stood at "appropriate" levels for the moment.

Tetangco added that the MB would likely keep a neutral stance on its policy rate setting this week.

The BSP's overnight borrowing rate currently stood at 7.5 percent, and lending rate at 9.75 percent.

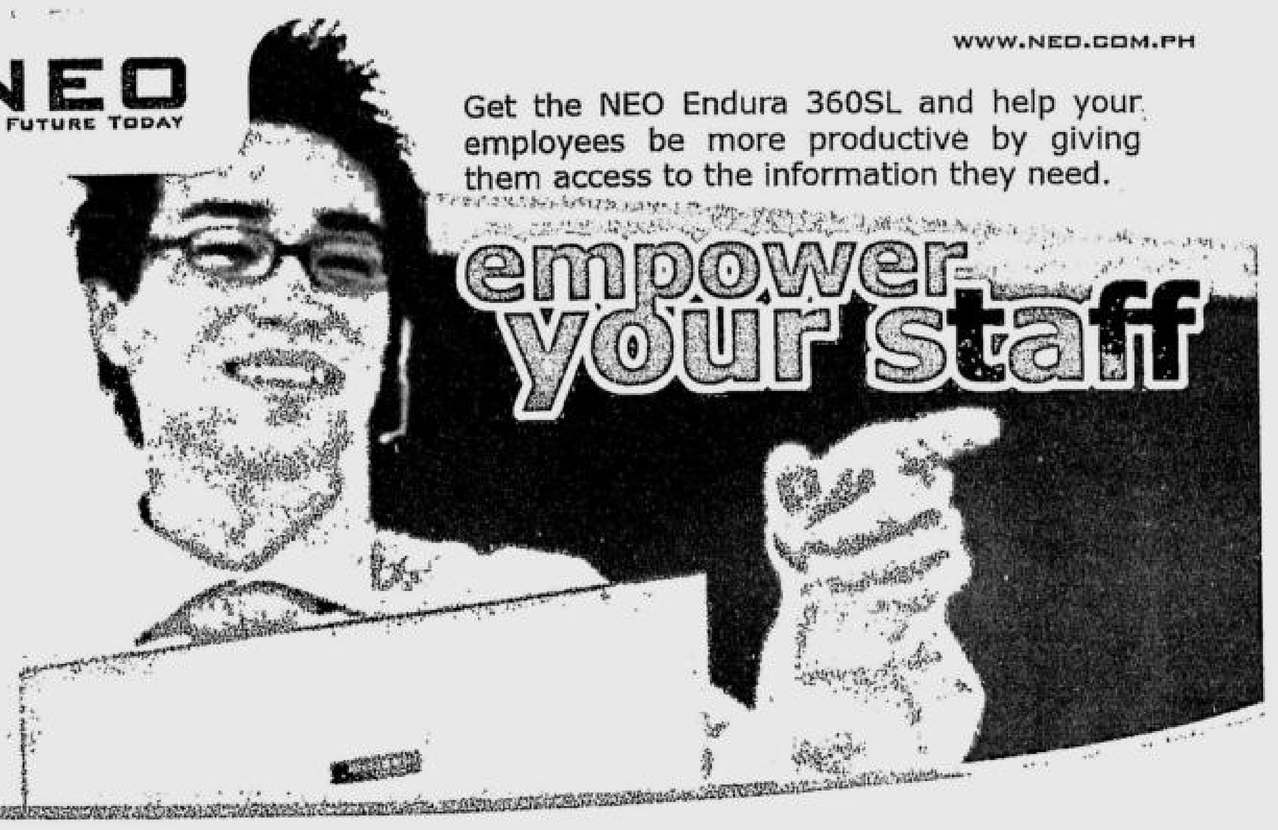
Malacañang continues to bask in the glow of a strong peso, as it slams critics who claim that the government is not doing enough for the poor in the aftermath of last weekend's stampede outside the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said government critics have twisted the events that led to the tragedy, which left 74 people dead.

"Quite obviously, they are blind to the silver lining in the horizon," Bunye said.

Bunye stressed that the strong rally of the peso against the dollar could not have happened by itself.

"It is fed by good economic fundamentals and confidence in the national leadership," he said.



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See Flyers for Details.

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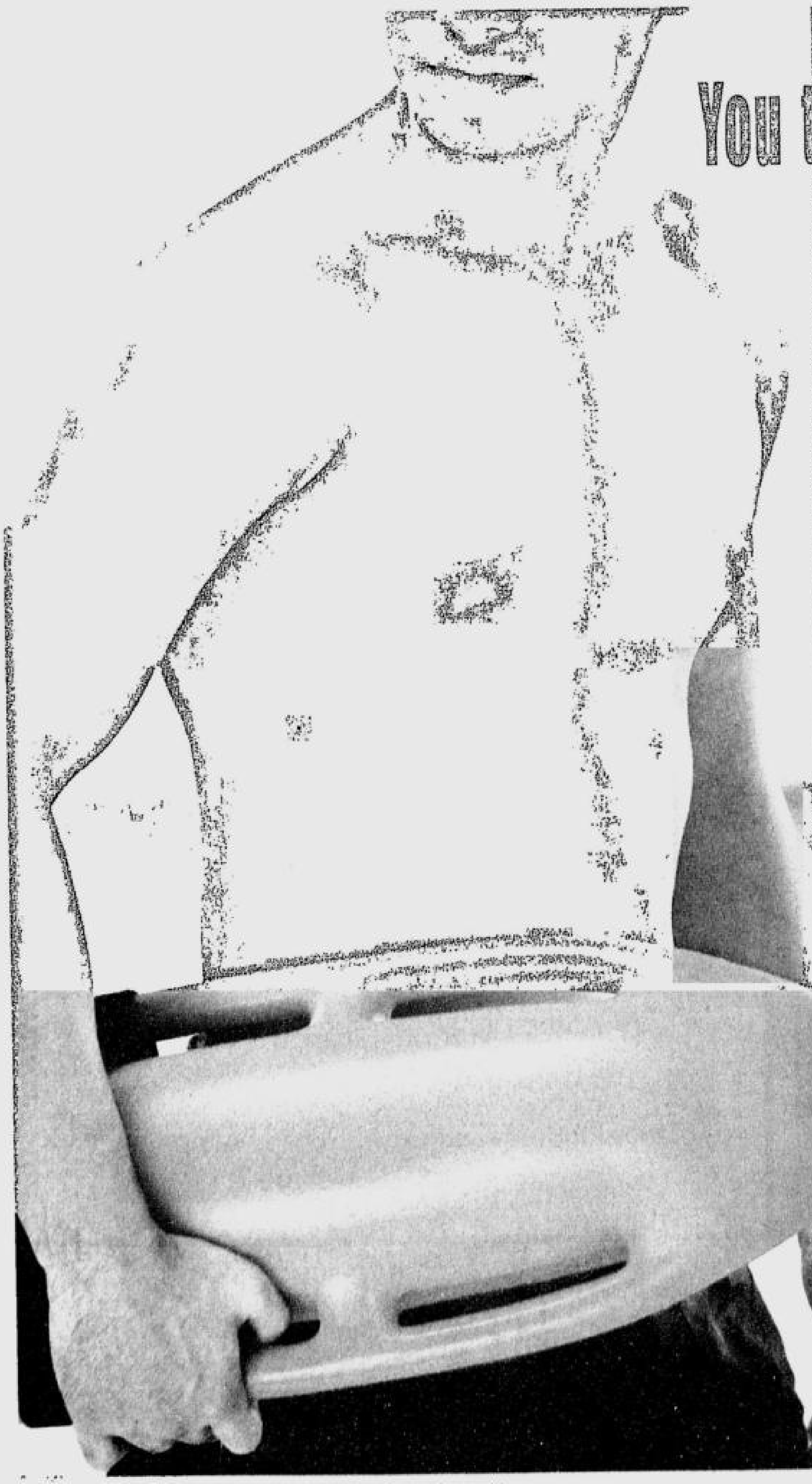

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Philam Dollar Bond Fund, Inc.	US$2,000.00	8.34%
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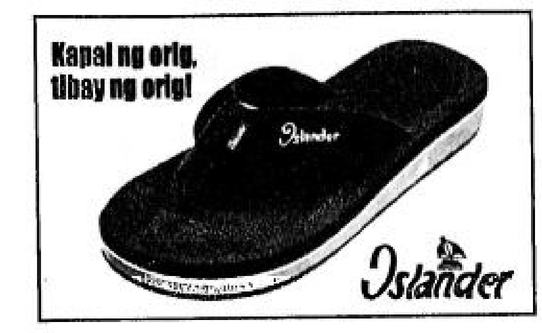
Kapal ng orig,
tibay ng orig!
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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

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2bU! plays Cupid...

...with this special gift and date guide that also doubles as a prize catalogue.

We know preparing for Valentine's Day can be a little stressful, and we want to give you a little help. We're packing this issue with great gift ideas (from stuffed toys you can design to Swarovski-encrusted Havaianas) and fun date suggestions (from spa treatments for two to an intimate poolside barbecue).

And because we're big fans of love, we have a special surprise for our readers this year. For the past few weeks, we've been asking you to send in your extraordinary love stories. The three couples with the most touching and unforgettable (and true, please) love stories will win everything indicated in our pages. Yes, everything. That means you'll have enough dates and gifts to last you for months.

If you want to want to win one of 2bU!'s three very special Valentine Packages, tell us your true extraordinary love story.

E-mail your entries at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph.

Don't forget to include your name, age, school/office, contact info and a picture of you and your loved one.

Deadline for entries is Feb. 10.

Speak From a New Level of Confidence!
Feb Classes Start This Week
SUMMER CLASSES START APRIL 17, 18, 22, 23,29, May 16
Scheds: MW, TTH, SAT, SUN / Morning, Afternoon, Evening
- Speech Dynamics
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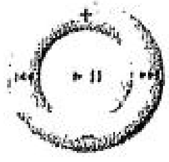


Win an iPod Shuffle!

Make your Valentine's date extra-romantic, music-wise

IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE REALLY special this Valentine's day, you can skip the mix tape and give a hi-tech version—an iPod loaded with songs that remind you of your loved one.

If your bank account's in no condition to shell out enough cash for everyone's favorite music gadget, then you're in luck.

INQUIRER 2bU! and Apple are giving away an iPod Shuffle. Just send us a list of the Top 10 songs that remind you of the one you love.

Feel free to be as cheesy as you want. Then tell us why you deserve the Shuffle.

E-mail your entries along with your contact info and a photo of you and your loved one at contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Deadline is Feb. 10.

GRAMMY
2006 NOMINEES
GORILLAZ
JOHN LEGEND
GREEN DAY
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
MARIAH CAREY
RASCAL FLATTS
PAUL McCARTNEY
FRANZ FERDINAND
U2
DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE
KELLY CLARKSON
BECK
SHERYL CROW
JACK JOHNSON
COLDPLAY
SEAL
FOO FIGHTERS
ROB THOMAS
THE ROLLING STONES
STEVIE WONDER
NEIL YOUNG

Win a Grammy CD!

IF YOU WANT TO WIN A GRAMMY Nominees CD, tell us who wins "Record of the Year" and why you think he or she deserves the award. Simply watch the 48th Annual Grammy Awards on Star World, on Feb 9, live, at 9 a.m., with a primetime repeat at 9 p.m., and send your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph

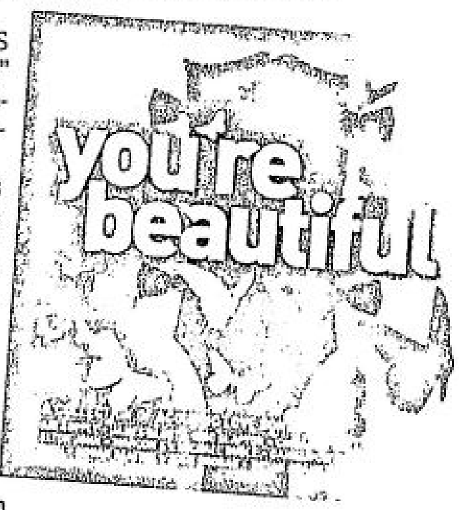
Your Valentine soundtrack

MAKE SWEET MUSIC THIS Valentine with "You're Beautiful," a special compilation CD released by Warner Music just in time for romance season.

"You're Beautiful," named after James Blunt's hit, is a collection of 17 acoustic love songs, including Ryan Cabrera's "True," Maroon 5's "She Will Be Loved," Rob Thomas' "Lonely No More," Aqualung's "Brighter than Sunshine," Dido's "Thank You," Jewel's "You Were Meant For Me" and the previously unreleased "I am Yours" by Manila favorite Jason Mraz.

The CD is a perfect item to give your loved one this Valentine's, or to play during a romantic home-cooked meal or in your car on your way to your special date.

Visit your favorite record bars to get a copy.


you're beautiful

Our three couples will receive a copy of "You're Beautiful" from Warner Music.

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Make sure your username has 6-10 alphanumeric characters.
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1st Choice:

2nd Choice:

3rd Choice:

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call 172 or visit www.mypad.net

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4314, Series of 2005.

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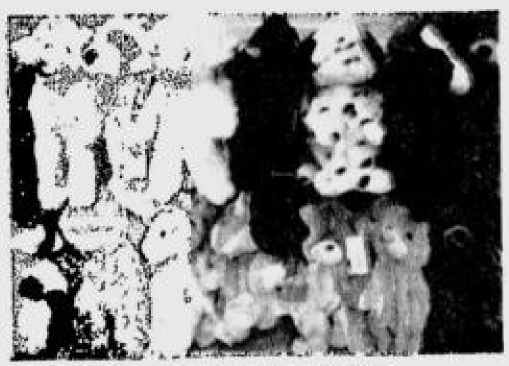
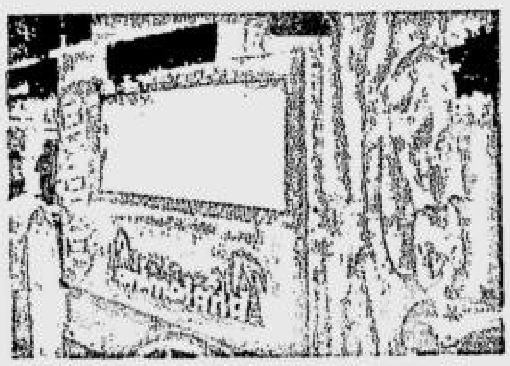
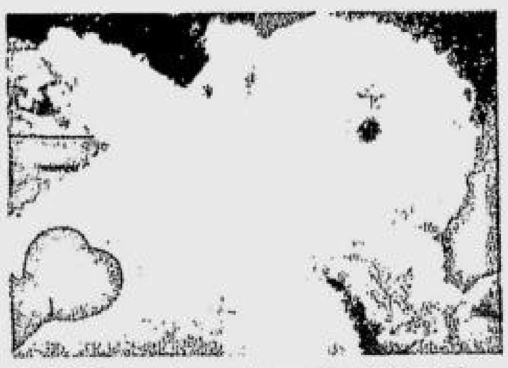

CHOOSE your animal. Animaland's signature bear Ronnie Bear is the bestseller, but you can also choose from flamingos and pigs to unicorns and purple frogs.

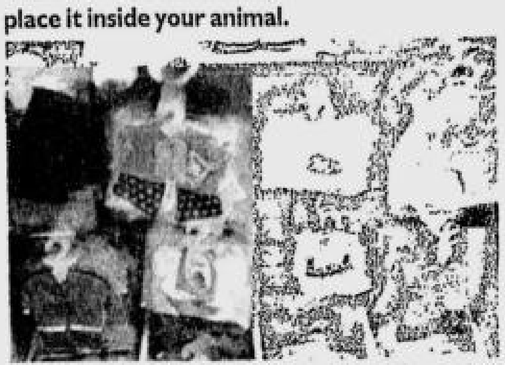
WE chose the lamb.


STUFF your animal. At the stuffing machine, you can decide how fat or thin you want your cuddly friend to be.

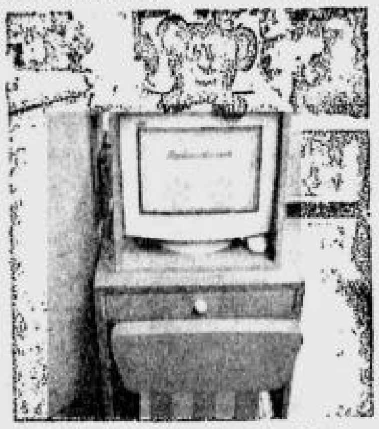

SELECT a heart or a star, make a wish and place it inside your animal.

HEAR
YOUR
ANIMAL
CHOOSE among pre-recorded chips or record a message for your loved one.

FLUFF your animal. Remove excess stuffing with the fluffer machine.


CHOOSE from a wide variety of outfits and accessories. We wanted our lamb to become a fairy.

DRESSING ROOM
GO to the dressing room and dress your animal.


NAME your animal at the Birth Certificate Registry. Don't forget to fill in the important details.

WAIT for your animal's birth certificate to be printed.

TAKE home your animal in Animaland's special signature cradle.

Cuteness overload

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

VALENTINE'S DAY is more than just plucking a bear off the shelf and wrapping it up for your loved one.

Everyone appreciates the extra personal touch. And what can be more personal than designing your own stuffed animal for your beloved?

Thanks to Animaland, creating the stuffed toy of your girlfriend's or boyfriend's dreams is now a possibility. And the whole process, from choosing your animal to giving it a name, takes just about 30 minutes.

And before Valentine's Day, several other stations in Animaland will start operating, including the Animal Salon, where you can have your cuddly friend's hair fixed or even have them fitted for wigs, and the Animal Hospital, where you can take your worn-out or broken animals for treatment. They will actually be given hospital tags and be taken away on wheelchairs. How cute is that?

The Animal Eye Clinic will also start soon. You can actually choose the perfect eyes for your stuffed animal.

Based in the US, Animaland has stores in the UK, Australia, Puerto Rico, Mexico and now, the Philippines. Visit its Eastwood, Rockwell Power Plant or Shangri-La Plaza Mall branches for your own Animaland experience.

Make your own stuffed friend at Animaland. Animaland also has party packages. For franchise inquiries, call 5637881 or fax 5612380.

Our three lucky couples will win gift certificates from Animaland. The gift certificates entitle them to one animal, one outfit and a recordable chip.

Style you love

SPECIAL DATES CALL FOR special dresses. Check out the cutest and most feminine dresses from Karimadon. A favorite of many for its dresses, Karimadon also offers casual and corporate wear in a wide array of colors and styles.

International VJ and model Amanda Griffin, Karimadon's current endorser, loves the comfort and style of Karimadon garments. Stumped on what to wear this Valentine's? Check out Karimadon at major malls nationwide to get the perfect outfit.

Our three couples will receive gift certificates from Karimadon.

RODEL ROTONI

Beauty loot

IF GETTING READY FOR A DATE IS HALF the fun, then you're surely going to love Shu Uemura's Valentine offers. Skincare lovers will adore the Depsea Therapy Discovery Kit, which contains travel-size bottles of High Performance Cleansing Oil, Depsea Therapy Moisture Recovery Nanowater and Depsea Therapy Moisture Recovery Cream.

Also check out Shu Uemura's Valentine offering, a makeup set that includes a canister of the UV Underbase (great as a makeup primer and sunblock), a sample of its Velvet Perfect foundation, and Rouge 4 lipstick. Of course, diehard Shu Uemura fans can never do without the famous eyelash curler, too.

Any girl—your girlfriend, mom, sister, aunt, best friend—would love to get the brand's most famous offerings, and this is the best way to give them a try. Check out Shu Uemura counters at Rustan's Tower and Rustan's Glorietta for the best gift to give to the special (*kikay*) woman in your life.

Our three couples will receive gift sets from Shu Uemura.

Sweet treats

THERE'S NO BETTER WAY to end the night than with a cup of coffee and sinfully delicious dessert. After dinner and a movie (or a dance), head to Cheesecake, Etc., for a luscious nightcap. Although fans swear by its heavenly cheesecakes, even non-cheesecake lovers make it a point to stop by Cheesecake, Etc.'s stores for the savory pastas and sandwiches.

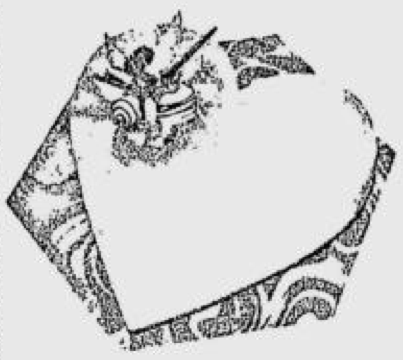
Aside from specialties such as the incomparable Ghirardelli series of malted drinks, Cheesecake Etc. will be offering more treats this Valentine's. Look out for the Divine Sin-sation, a chocolate cake layered with raspberry mousse and covered with rich and silky chocolate ganache.

A great take-home gift is the Cheesecake, Etc. gift package (five different flavors of cheesecake in heart shapes, including Mango Passion, Berries Sensation, low-fat White Chocolate Pistachio, low-fat Berry Blue, and low-fat Black and White Oreo Cheesecake.)

Also, try the Green Tea and Strawberry malted drinks, refreshing alternatives to heavy coffee drinks.

Check out Cheesecake, Etc.'s Valentine offerings at their branches in The Podium, Glorietta, Greenbelt, and more.

Our three couples will receive gift certificates from Cheesecake, Etc.



Love in the time of the Internet

IF YOUR BOYFRIEND LIVES far away and you don't get to spend as much time together as you want; if your girlfriend is a huge Internet addict, juggles three blogs and spends most of her time reading about other people's lives; if your loved one is still struggling with their slow-as-a-turtle dial-up connection; or if your romance started online, then the perfect Valentine gift might just be the most practical and useful gift there is: a broadband Internet connection.

And broadband is no longer synonymous to expensive, thanks to PLDT.

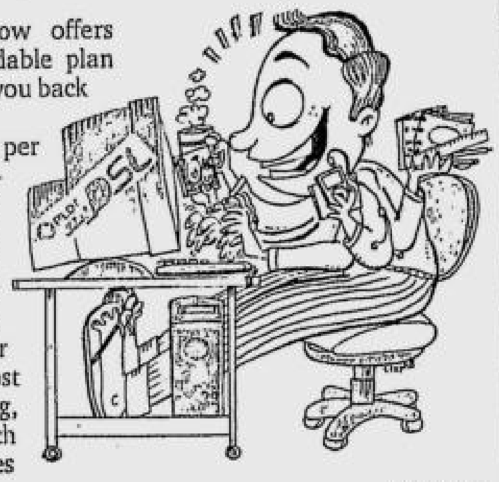
PLDT myDSL now offers Plan 999, an affordable plan that would only set you back P999 every month.

At 384 kilobytes per second, PLDT myDSL can provide the speed you need for multitasking—surfing, research for school or work, maintaining your blogs and, the most important thing, keeping in touch with your loved ones through e-mail and instant messaging.

We can't deny it, the Internet has not only been making the world smaller and smaller, it's also become an essential tool in strengthening bonds, improving communication and keeping relationships intact.

To know more about PLDT myDSL, log on to www.mypad.net, call 171 or visit your nearest PLDT Business Office for details.

Our three couples will win six months of high-speed broadband Internet access, thanks to PLDT myDSL.



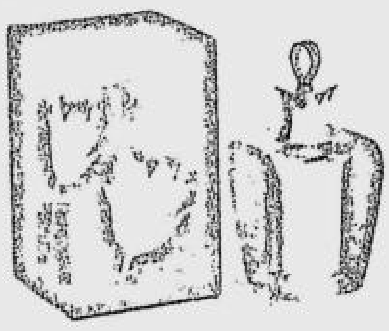
STEPH BRAVO

RODEL ROTONI

More prizes for our couples!

UNILEVER will also be giving special packages filled with personal care products to our lucky couples. We have it all in a bag—from toothpaste and shampoo to powder and fabric softener because 2bU! and Unilever care about you.

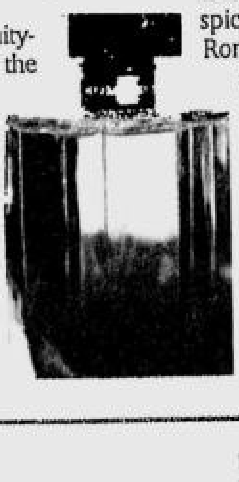
Scent-sational perfume



EVERYONE WANTS TO SMELL good, and your significant other shouldn't be an exception.

Scents are often used to attract the opposite sex; some animals use musk to attract mates, for instance. So make sure you smell sweet for your date with your signature scent. If you don't have one, your special date is a good time to try a new one.

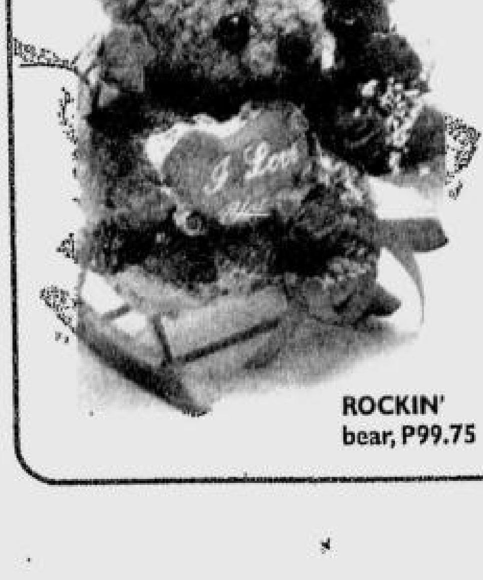
Girls will love the fruity-floral scent of Promesse, the new perfume from Cacharel. With tangy, sparkling notes of bergamot, tangerine, blackberry, orchid and jasmine, the fragrance comes off as sensual and voluptuous, very warm and womanly. The gilded lilac bottle is a plus.



Guys, on the other hand, will like the fresh, sensual notes of musk, woods and exotic spices in Ralph Lauren's Romance. The scent is described as masculine and intimate and is packaged with understated elegance.

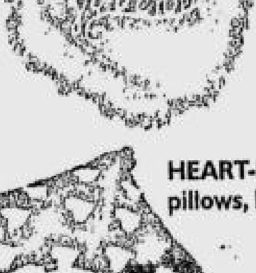
Our three couples will receive a bottle each of Promesse and Romance from Cacharel and Ralph Lauren Fragrances from L'Oreal.

Can't buy me love



ROCKIN' bear, P99.75

HUGGABLE pillows. Yellow, P99.75; fuchsia, P69.75


WITH fur accents, P399.75

HEART-PRINTED pillows, P59.75 each

SM KNOWS YOU CAN'T put a price tag on love. So this Valentine's Day, it has gift suggestions that are big on expression but still easy on the pocket.

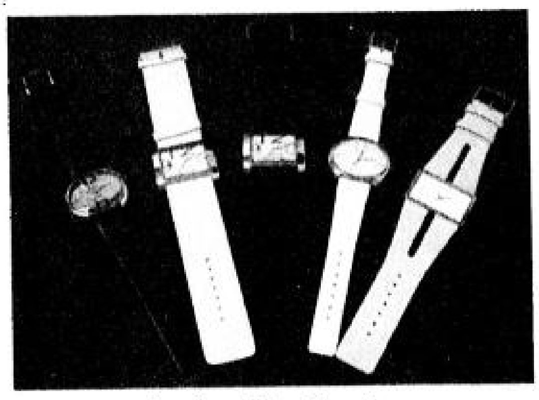
Visit your favorite SM Department Store for these fab finds.

Our three couples will win P2,000 gift certificates from SM.

CUDDLY mommy and baby bear, P99.75

BEAR in a mug, P99.75

Give the gift of time



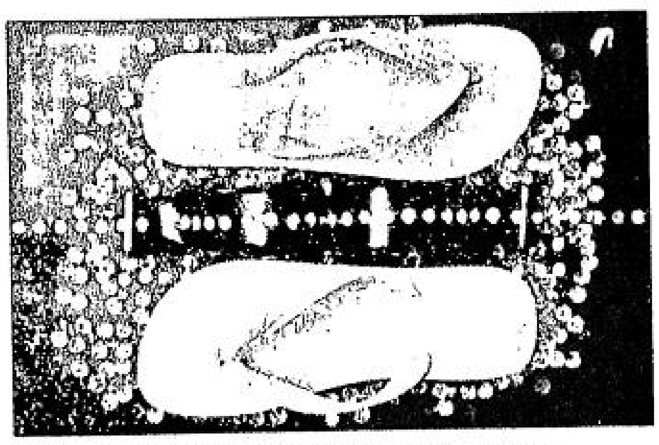
ALFEX watches from Time Depot RODEL ROTONI

ALWAYS LATE FOR YOUR DATES? Give the gift of time with watches from Alfex. Not only will you not have an excuse to be late, you'll look cool, too.

Time Depot stores are in Rockwell, Robinson's Place Manila, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Festival Supermall, Eastwood Citiwalk 2, and SM branches in North Edsa Annex, Fairview and Pampanga.

Our three couples win Casio watches from Time Depot.

Jewel for her feet



ICE her feet with Swarovski-encrusted Havaianas.

By Pam Pastor

IF YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS A FLIP-FLOP fanatic, forget diamonds. Ice her feet with Havaianas customized with Swarovski crystals.

Pretty much like Brazil's ultra exclusive fashion house, Daslu, Havaianas has teamed up with Itsie Bitsie Boutique to offer a luxurious way for your girl to enjoy her favorite flip-flops in the coming summer season.

And the best part is, you can customize the flip-flops to fit her taste.

The steps are quick and easy.' Choose a solid-colored pair from this season's vibrant hues. Then, choose up to a dozen Swarovski crystals that would adorn the flip flops. Only the finest rhinestones encased in silver plating will be used for maximum brilliance. Then, using a special riveting device, Itsie Bitsie's staff will securely attach the crystals onto the slipper straps in just a matter of minutes.

There's no time to waste. Only a limited number of pairs and crystals are available. This one-of-a-kind offer is only available at Itsie Bitsie Boutique for a limited period. Visit Itsie Bitsie at 1755 Adriatico Street, Malate, Manila or call 522-8592.

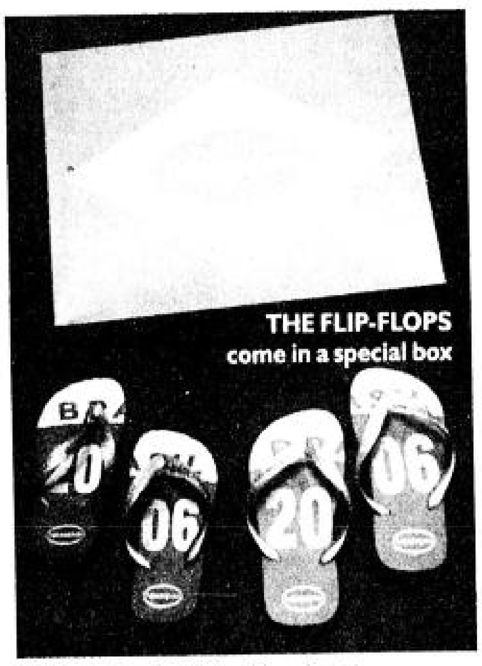
SPECIAL FLIP FLOPS FOR SPECIAL COUPLES

HAVAIANAS STARTS EACH YEAR BY creating extremely special pairs of flip-flops with the purpose of presenting them to individuals who have embodied the brand's fashionable, fun and unique image.

Our three special Valentine couples are in luck this year because our friends from Havaianas are giving them 2006 Limited-Edition kits which contain two pairs of Havaianas each—one for men and one for women. Only 40 of these kits are available in the Philippines—and they are not for sale.

This year's design is inspired by two things—the metallic trend that is still going strong and the World Cup. Pinoys are big fans of metallic flip flops—last year's metallic collection really flew off the shelves.

The pairs that our winning couples will take home are so exclusive that they will not be available in stores. Wear them with pride, flip-flop lovers.



THE FLIP-FLOPS come in a special box

2006 Limited-Edition Havaianas

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

A soothing surrender of mind and body…
a blissful rush of souls and senses…
in a perfect tryst of everything that matters most to the hearts.

Suite Passion
specially packaged only for the romantics!
P5,500.00 ++

Suite Passion includes :
- finest accommodation of One-Bedroom Executive Suite, bathed with mist of scented candles and rose petals
- an intimate Room Service dinner for two
- complimentary bottle of wine
- hearty buffet breakfast
- 15% discount on Suriya Spa services

and a chance to win exciting raffle prizes!

First 10 bookers enjoy a Suriya Mind & Body Harmony Massage

Valid from February 10 to 14, 2006
Exclusive for local and foreign residents of the Philippines

For inquiries, please call
633-7111 local 7400
email reservations@holiday-inn-galleria-mla.com

Price is subject to VAT, applicable local tax and 10% service charge.

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m&m's
jazz up your CHRISTMAS

CONGRATULATIONS!!!
TO THE 3 HONDA JAZZ CAR WINNERS!

DOROTHY JOY QUAN
Quezon City
CRIZANDRA B. CATIBOG
Batangas
LORELIE C. PANGILINAN
Manila City

10 WINNERS Sony Ericsson W800i Walkman Phones

Analinda R. Amparo	Las Pinas City	**John Trinos**	Manila City
Caroline R. Wong	Baguio City	**Jose Maria Cueto**	Iligan City
Hazel Ann G. Bartolome	Pasig City	**Joy**	Marikina City
Jacqueline Jamias	Cavite City	**Mary Grace Dantes**	Quezon City
Jennylyn Timbol	Manila City	**Sheilah Marie Q. Mirasol**	Pasig City

Apple iPod WINNERS

Alastair Espino	Las Pinas
Alma Catacutan	Tarlac
Angela Natunay	Bulacan
Antoinette De Zuzuarregui	Cebu
Arah Patricia Eugenio	Marikina
Armie Rogando	Albay
Amelia Tongco	Makati
Arnold Angeles	Quezon City
Belen V. Javier	Laguna
Blesilda Malvar	Cavite
Carla Isabel G. Mejia	San Juan
Cedric M. Dela Cruz	Mandaluyong
Charee C. Robles	San Juan
Cheryll Basquial	Baguio
Chester Arcega	Baguio
Cirilo L. Santos	Makati
Claire R. Roferos	Mindanao
Daisy Gabawan Abecia	Pagadian
Danielle Lingat	Paranaque
Darwin E. Fernandez	Sta. Cruz, Manila
Dennis P Villanueva	Pasig
Diana Rose Tompar	Cebu
Diane Isidro	Marikina
Edmundo Patüngan Jr.	Quezon City
Edylin D.Berran	Mandaluyong
Elinor R. infante	Quezon City
Elvin O. Ong	Paco, Manila
Enrique Herrera	Muntinlupa
Erlinda B Dilao	Cavite
Ernest Tanquiong	Sta. Cruz, Manila
Fernando G. Manuel	Pangasinan
Finn Robert Sundstrom	Las Pinas
Gerardo Castaneda	San Juan
Gezelle Malou Caulian	Tondo, Manila
Ginalyn Aban	Rizal
Gladys Lee	Sta. Cruz, Manila
Grace Dumadag	Cebu
Isaac E. Cristobal	Sta. Cruz, Manila
Janice Ong	Iloilo
Jeffrey Calimutan	Rizal
Jennifer P. Macalinao	Antipolo
Jennifer R. Agawan	Quezon City
Jennifer Serafin	Pasig
Jennylyn R. Bautista	Laguna
Jo-Anna M. Visda	Bulacan
Jorge Fajardo	Sorsogon
Josephus T. Grefalde	Bulacan
Kate Gierza	Quezon City
Kiane C. Fernandez	Las Pinas
Lanielyn Claveria	Pasig
Larry C.Escobar	Makati
Liezilyn Genon	Cebu
Lilian C. Sinoy	General Santos City
Lito Carpio	Rizal
Louiza Mae Punsalan	Cavite
Ma. Majella Javier	Las Pinas
Ma. Michelle H. Miguel	Mandaluyong
Marelyne M. Espares	Makati
Maria Ana Shela Trinidad	Las Pinas
Maria Rizalynn Santos	Bulacan
Marila Balaquiot	Paranaque
Marilou A. Pandao	Paranaque
Marilou Co	Tondo, Manila
Marlon De Barrameda	Bulacan
Michael Allen R. Reodique	Laguna
Michael Quejado	Pasig
Michelle Belano	Makati
Michelle Galarosa	Cavite
Nezher Concha	Batangas
Nicole	Quezon City
Pedro C. Lopez III	Bulacan
Perluo Solidor	Tondo, Manila
Raymand Reginalde	Tarlac City
Rebecca A. Taylor	Valenzuela
Ressie Bagonoc	Cotabato
Romano Obispo	Sta. Mesa, Manila
Ronie B. Literato	Surigao
Ronina Cruz	Rizal
Rosalie Baf'96ares	Rizal
Roserel L. Virtudazo	Taguig
Russel Sales	Paranaque
Sheldon Gaw	San Juan
Simon Dy Tian	Binondo, Manila
Tae-Hyun Kim	Makati
Ted Laurence L. Tuason	Laguna
Zenaida Flor Icban	Quezon City

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO THE
1,000 LUCKY WINNERS
OF THE ODYSSEY CD.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE LUCKY WINNERS!!!

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[illegible] 2005. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1107 Series of 2005.

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C
Plus choice of any drink.

Promo is also valid for P200 single minimum purchase at any Greenwich store.
Valid for dine-in, take-out and delivery. Promo is from February 6 to 19, 2006. Per DTI NCR Permit # 0104, Series of 2006.

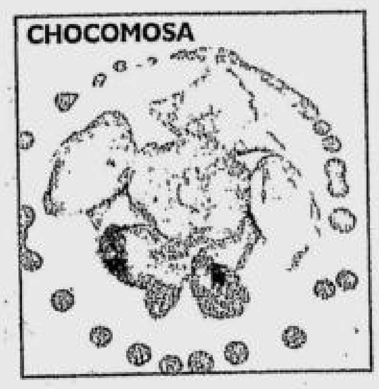
Café Havana

[illegible] the first ever Chocolate Festival of Greenbelt from Feb. 18 to 28. Chocolate [illegible] is a heavenly blend of chocolate and [illegible] topped with chocolate layered with vanilla and nuts. Your [illegible] with the first bite. Visit Café Havana in Greenbelt 3. Call 757[illegible]

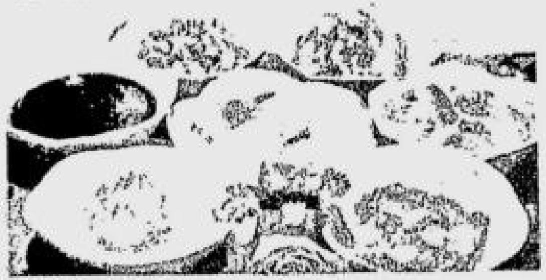
CHOCOLATE [illegible]

Bollywood Bistro Bar

Make your chocolate-loving partner happy by trying Chocomosa, Bollywood's variation of the regular samosa (it's topped with chocolate ice cream!) and Choconaan, Indian leavened bread served with a rich chocolate dip for an extra dose of sweetness this Valentine. Bollywood is in Greenbelt 3. Call 7573536 and 7573537.



CHOCOMOSA



THALI meal

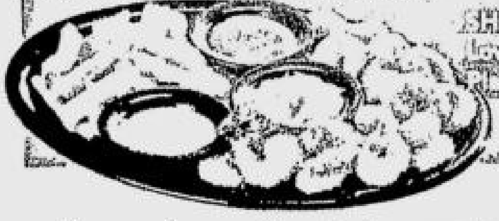
You can also try Bollywood's special Valentine promo—the Thali meal—a special Indian meal with a selection of different dishes, including rice, dal, vegetables, naan or chapati, chutney or pickle. Choose from vegetarian, nonvegetarian or seafood thali.

Our three couples will win P1,500 gift certificates which can be used either in Bollywood or Café Havana.

Shakey's

[illegible] Valentine's? Check out Shakey's Shrimp Lovin' Platter, a gourmet dish made with black tiger prawns coated in special breading and deep-fried to perfection. Enjoy it with Belgian fries along with [illegible], a combination of Caesar's Salad and coleslaw. Try the Shrimp Lovin' Platter [illegible] of spaghetti [illegible] for only P689. Call Shakey's at 5338000.

[illegible] P2,000 [illegible] from Shakey's.

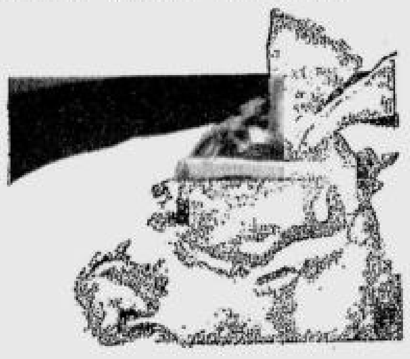


SHRIMP Lovin' Platter

Hot date spots

Here's a rundown of some of our favorite date spots and what they have in store for you in the season of love

Solomon Guest House



Tucked into a quiet corner of Malate, The Solomon Guest House, which is managed completely by practicum students of the School of Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, is a great place for dates. Try their tiramisu, which is served in a large goblet, and their beef teppanyaki. The Solomon Guest House is open from Mondays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and is located at 1025-C Ayala St., Malate, Manila. Call 5366416.

The Solomon Guest House has prepared a special meal for our three couples.

Dencio's

[illegible] for the whole month of February [illegible] cocktail [illegible] Dencio's branches. Aside from [illegible] bands and hip DJs will be playing music for couples [illegible] to keep the drinks flowing.

Visit Dencio's at Scout [illegible], Capitol Hills, Camp John Hay, Rockwell, Jupiter, [illegible], Metrowalk, [illegible], SM Baguio, Eastwood, Paseo de Roxas, [illegible], Ermita, [illegible] Complex, SM Megamall, Araneta Center, [illegible] Magallanes, [illegible] Center and [illegible]

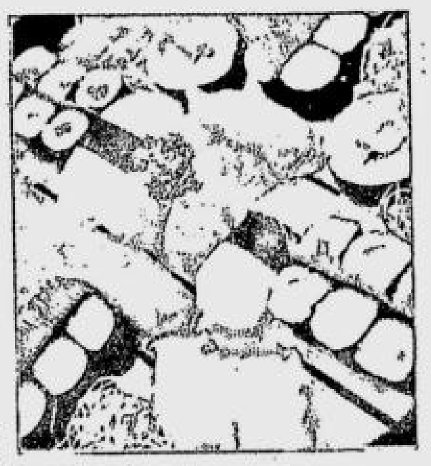
Our three couples will receive [illegible]

Sakae Sushi

Here's the latest way to enjoy Japanese food—at Sakae Sushi, you and your date can take turns picking out sushi, maki, and sashimi from the conveyor belt or browse through an interactive menu to order a wide array of tempura, temaki, donburi, teppanyaki, ramen and udon.

Sakae Sushi is located at 26th Crescent West Park, Global City.

Our three couples will receive gift certificates from Sakae Sushi.



SUSHI galore

Tia Maria's

[illegible] Burritos? There's more reason to [illegible] tortilla chips [illegible] with salsa and chips. For the month of [illegible]

UCC Coffee

There's definitely more than coffee at UCC. Try out from savory dishes like Japanese Seafood Soup Spaghetti, Beef Yakiniku, and Hamburg Curry Rice, and enjoy their sweet dessert with freshly siphon-brewed coffee.

UCC Coffee is located at Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Connecticut Street, Greenhills; The Podium, Ortigas Center; Forbes Town Center, The Fort; Rockwell Center, Makati; The Paseo Center, Makati; and Westgate Center, Alabang.

Metro Ph

[illegible] Metrowalk. Enjoy [illegible] restaurant [illegible] Western cuisine [illegible] cocktail drinks.

Metro Ph Restobar is located at the Metrowalk Commercial Complex, Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call 6388896 or 6872758.

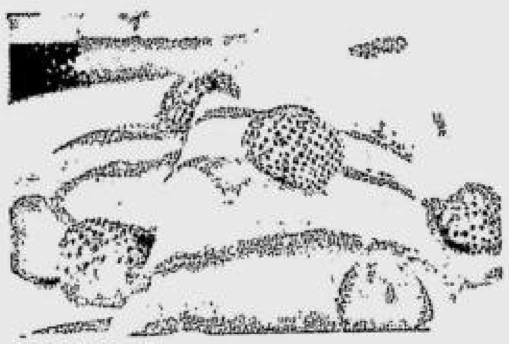
Our three couples will receive [illegible] gift certificates from Metro Ph.

Enchanted Kingdom

There's no better way to have innocent fun than to spend a day at an amusement park. At Enchanted Kingdom, scream your heart out on the Space Shuttle or hold hands with your significant other on the Wheel of Fate.

Our three couples will win two tickets each from Enchanted Kingdom.

Extra-cool Valentine treat



CREPE Confit

DON'T EXPRESS YOUR LOVE WITH just any cake. Be extra cool and express it with ice cream cake.

Haagen Dazs' Mi Amore ice cream cake, a heart-shaped cake which is made richer by Haagen Dazs vanilla ice cream, thick strawberry sauce, fresh strawberries and chocolate swirls, is a delightful way to celebrate your love this Valentine's Day. It comes in two sizes: 500 grams (Petit, which starts at P298) or 1,000 g.

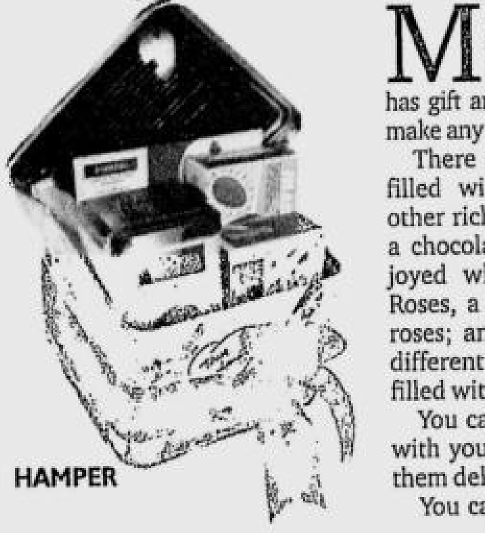
There are 15 other yummy ice cream cakes to choose from. Haagen Dazs gift checks are also available.

Haagen Dazs also has sweet offerings that can be enjoyed at its cafés: Crepe Confit, Chocolate Fudge Brownie Special and Bananafanna Fritter.

Visit Haagen Dazs cafés at Glorietta, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza and Alabang Town Center and dip shops at Greenbelt 3, Rockwell Power Plant, Eastwood Libis and PriceSmart Fort Bonifacio. For deliveries and inquiries, call 7527299.

Our three lucky couples will win Petit Cake Ice Cream vouchers from Haagen Dazs.

Say it with chocolate



HAMPER

MAX BRENNER CHOCOlates, to be specific. Our favorite chocolate bar has gift and date ideas that would make any chocolate lover melt.

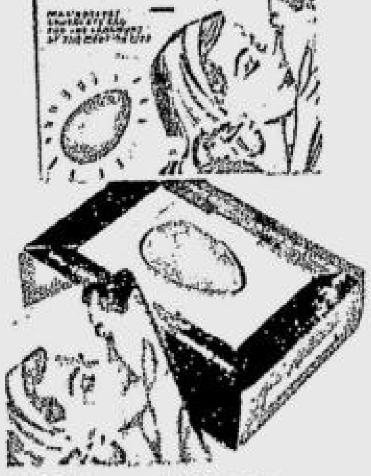
There are Valentine Hampers filled with sweet delights and other rich masterpieces: Magnet, a chocolate egg that can be enjoyed while kissing; Praline & Roses, a box of six pralines and roses; and Max Favorites, seven different playful cartoon boxes filled with pralines and nuts.

You can also fill tin containers with your own choices and have them delivered for a minimal fee.

You can also spend Valentine's Day at Max Brenner's ultra-cozy bar. Try the complete Valentine's Dinner (P598+) which is available from Feb. 10-15. Enjoy the special Cream of Mushroom with Cinnamon, the Caesar Salad and a choice of either Pork Escalopes or Cannelloni.

The dinner will be completed by the Chocishake, a chocolate beverage made from white chocolate and nonfat milk, blended with ice and a shot of espresso in five flavors.

Visit Max Brenner at the ground floor of Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City, or call 7288801.



MAX Brenner's Magnet

Our three lucky couples will win gift checks from Max Brenner.

CELEBRITY couple [illegible]

Sparty for two

THE JOYOUS EXPERIENCE [illegible] is doubly relaxing [illegible]

This February, California Nail & Day Spa has prepared a number of Valentine treats for couples.

[illegible] Greenhills [illegible] Stress Buster [illegible] minute back massage [illegible] P500.

[illegible] California Nail & Day Spa [illegible] 10 percent off [illegible] Aromatherapy Massage [illegible] Paraffin Hand or Paraffin Pedicure treatment.

[illegible] pedicure and deluxe foot spa for only P530 [illegible] Club Spa [illegible] branch.

[illegible] P1,000 worth [illegible]

For inquiries call 8205250 [illegible]

Celebrate Valentine the hotel way

By Pam Pastor

PASSIONS AT HOTEL PHILIPPINE Plaza will bring you one step closer to an unforgettable Valentine.

There's the Poolside Aphrodisiac Barbecue Menu, available from Feb. 13-15. Choose from vegetable kebabs, steaks, Hungarian sausages, lemon-rosemary chicken, grilled prawns, lamb steak, snapper fillet or pork steak, which would be grilled especially for you.

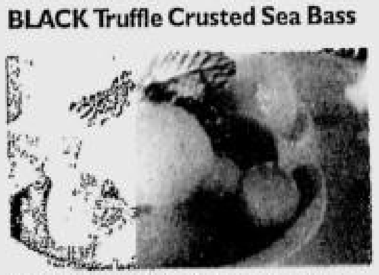
Dine with your loved one at the most romantic spot—tables set up with a splendid view of the bay. The experience will be extra special on the 14th when the poolside is transformed into a Roman piazza.

The Valentine's Dinner at the Poolside will feature live entertainment (including a 7-piece orchestra), roses and Moet Et Chandon champagne so you can toast to your love.

If you and your date enjoy food, try the Valentine's Buffet Dinner at Café Plaza Too. Enjoy an array of salads, fresh seafood, palate-pleasing appetizers, mouth-watering hot items like grilled sea bass and chicken, and luscious desserts.

GIFF RICARTE

BLACK Truffle Crusted Sea Bass



SWEET RATINGS. A beautiful way to end the meal GIFF RICARTE

DINNER by the bay

POOLSIDE barbecue

PUPPY Love GIFF RICARTE

PALATE pleasers

You can also experience the Aphrodisiac Festival at Café Plaza Too. This adventure for your palate will be available until the 28th. A musical duo will serenade guests at Café Plaza Too on Valentine's Day, and all diners will be gifted with dark and white chocolate pralines.

You can also go for Aphrodite's Set Menu at Café Plaza Too. This delicious meal, prepared by Executive Sous Chef Jojo Borlagdan, tastes as good as it sounds. The meal begins with the Alluring Appetizer—Pan Fried Foie Gras with Caramelized Smoked Eel, Watercress and Frisse Salad—and continues with the Sensuous Soup—Light Cream of Artichoke Soup with Love-Apple Confit and Pesto Crisp.

Then you can clear your palate with the Sorbet Sensation—Honey-Mint and Ginseng Sorbet. The Exquisite Entrée is Black Truffle Crusted Sea Bass Fillet on a bed of Mushroom Risotto, Asparagus and Tomato Crackling and Tobiko Beurre Blanc. The meal ends beautifully with Sweet Ratings—Trio of Fresh Fruits with Mixed Berries Ice Cream, Chocolatier Almond Cluster and Red Raspberry Puff.

Kids aren't left out either. "My First Love," the hotel's Sunday brunch for kids, will feature lots of surprises including magicians, face painters, pizzas, cotton candy and chocolates galore.

Hotel Philippine Plaza's Valentine's Drink is a sweet treat, too. Puppy Love is a delicious mix of *guyabano*, pineapple, *calamansi* and Blue Curacao, and comes with a cuddly puppy stuff toy.

If pampering is what you need, the Hotel Philippine Plaza offers many spa packages couples can enjoy, from the Gift of Sweetness and Gift of Harmony to the Gift of Caring and the Gift of Love.

Call Café Plaza Too at 5515555 extension 1531 or the Poolside at 1555.

Our three couples will get a chance to experience romancing by the bay at the Hotel Philippine Plaza Treasure Island-Poolside.

20th mile in a Maverick's Journey

Twenty year old Campaigns is enjoying each mile forward, still unconventional, still impassioned and curious, still fascinated with the "what if's".

In 1953, two unconventional scientists named Watson and Crick walked into a pub in the wee hours in Cambridge, England and announced: "we had found the secret of life." They had figured out the DNA structure — the double helix that can "unzip" to make copies of itself.

Take that graphic DNA structure and hold it in your mind and take this quick journey with Campaigns as it migrates from year one to year twenty. See how its double helix has uncoupled, replicated or resurrected into businesses that oftentimes showed the way, sometimes perplexing others, sometimes looking left when all heads looked right. It has certainly helped in the evolution of the communications industry, and to some extent the political and social face of this country.

Campaigns: Born in a time of political instability, in the year of the truly Promethean power of EDSA 1. Born in the midst of "what if's" and "why not's". Born from a unique resonance of minds, a certain "wanderlust", an indifference to boundaries and an undying sense of fun — the imprint of its future successes.

Just like the pioneering Nobel winners Watson and Crick, award-winning Campaigns has found it as impossible to switch off or slow down or give up its vision. Campaigns today — twenty years, eight companies, over one hundred dynamic people — is still refreshingly vibrant. It continues to celebrate the uniqueness of individuals, their collective expertise and the confluence of their visions. Each company is an expert, each a dedicated, imaginative and fearless journeyer. Excellence runs through their veins, and creativity nurtures their hearts. It's all in the genes.

Beyond Getting the Babe

By
Yoly
Villanueva-Ong

"Advertising is the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it," says a condescending Stephen Leacock. That's only the first from a long list of diatribes ranging from amused allegations of "frivolous, insulting and deceptive", to serious denunciations of "fostering materialistic, narcissistic values and corrupting morals". Advertising is dismissed, attacked, maligned or feared, depending on who's talking. Naturally the "intelligentsia" rebuffs any discourse on an exercise deemed as significant as watching a dead toenail grow out.

Let's see if the disdain is deserved. Turn on your TV and chances are you'll see the ad about a wimp-of-a male aspiring for a vavoom babe. After some misadventures, he flashes his dazzling pearly-whites, thus subduing le femme. Another shows the prerequisite girl with long, black, shiny, straight hair that flips, tumbles, bounces and unfurls eventually ensnaring all the eligible bachelors. Skin whiteners make the user such an object of desire that she inspires fits of jealousy that almost ruin a wedding, and results in a slapping frenzy from an irked fiancee who is less white. Deodorants make the most castrating woman melt when she smells it on any guy, never mind that he's a Woody Allen look-alike. Let it not be said that there are no variations on the theme. There are infant formulae that develop genius. And supplements that give permission to pig out without risking the health of their liver. Is it a wonder that H.G.Wells harshly calls advertising "legalized lying"?

Oh well, Advertising has never pretended to be anything more than fluff.

No matter how hackneyed the boy/girl-gets-girl/boy pay-off is, it still sells billions of shampoo, toothpaste, whiteners, deodorants, not to mention hard liquor and everything else that revolves around the theme of getting the babe. That's what ads are supposed to do. "Promise, large promise, is the soul of an advertisement", according to sardonic Samuel Johnson. They're meant to SELL, not be dogmatic, didactic, inspirational or thought provoking. If you watch hit teleseryes and movies, they don't venture very far from the babe stuff either. So why be so hard on ourselves?

Switch channels now and turn the lens inward into the "guts" (to avoid arguments if we claim "Soul") of what we do for a living. The more profound and philosophical practitioners in our ranks, as well as social analysts may have a very contrary prognosis that intellectual snobs may have missed from their ivory towers.

Can you feel the Power?

Consider this. The advertising industry has spawned a long list of renowned artists: Amorsolo, Legaspi, Blanco, Olazo, Wilwayco, Corcuera to name just a few. Our endowment to cinema art is quite equally noteworthy: Raymond Red, Yam Laranas and Mark Meily.

And of course Advertising has sired its own showbiz gene pool: Richard Gomez, Dawn Zulueta, Gretchen Baretto, Kris Aquino, Gabby Concepcion, G Tongi, Robin da Rosa etc etc etc. And the reverse has been true with product endorsements becoming the undisputed seal of celebrity hood. In fact, we've not only made stars.

We've helped make and unmake Presidents.

Advertising has a big role in shaping the political landscape. After all we help make candidates win or not. We also helped rid government of the inept, incompetent and corrupt. The public now knows biodiversity is not a gender and jumping after sex is not a family planning method. The products we sell are economic indicators i.e. beer, LPG, cars, coffee, noodles, thus advertising indirectly indexes a nation's economic progress or the lack of it. Anthropologists will no doubt study our brands and icons as symbols of generations. We provide evidence or at the very least witness, attest and document the end or the beginning of a new Era. As precursors and diviners of fads and trends, we unconsciously charter the course of society's "next big thing". As Norman Douglas correctly infers, "You can tell the ideals of a nation by its advertisements".

No other industry can claim as much impact on language and idiom as Advertising. We've parlayed our invented phrases into the lingua franca of the hip, the cool, the man on the street, the radicals and the so-called Establishment. We dictate what's "in" and "out" in fashion, sports, interests and the entire pop culture. We promulgate the acceptable body shape and benchmark the new standard of beauty . We have the power to change values, for better or for worse. We can create a need from a want; turn the nice-to-have into a must-have. We can leverage outrageous behavior, crude jokes and bad taste into multi-million bestsellers. We can even blur the line between what is offensive and down-to-earth, and make Emily Post rules sound irrelevant and inane.

It's our choice: Britney Spears or Carl Sagan?

Getting-the-babe-Fluff or Accountable Power? These are the two diametrically opposing perspectives that face our Industry today. And it is within the realm of conscious direction setting to go one way or the other. It is still viable to continue to, " hit me baby, one more time" as wriggly Britney bleats? Or, take our place in the sun sobered by the vast responsibility that comes with cosmic influence as the insightful Sagan would exhort. We could validate F. Scott Fitzgerald's assessment that advertising's constructive contribution to humanity is exactly minus zero. Or live up to Marshall Mcluhan's pronouncement that "Advertising is the greatest art form of the twentieth century."

CAMPAIGNS & GREY
The Generals

Main camp. Today's *samurai* with honed strategies and sharp creatives.

CAPRI
The Face-lifters

Public relations and events. Sparking love between brands and people.

Neuron
The Dissenters

The breakaway team. Brave ideas for brave brands.

CSR
The Crusaders

Advocacy and corporate social responsibility. Boat-rockers and champions of causes.

BACON
The Originators

Below the line, customer relationship and shopper marketing.
Crisp, non-trad sizzlers.

CAMP APPLE
The Finishers

Electronic final art and design.
Turning ideas into showcases.

MEDIACOM
[illegible]

[illegible]

CAMPAIGNS CEBU
[illegible]

[illegible]

Campaigns & Grey The Generals

CAMPAIGNS & GREY

Battle ready. Precise. Victory hungry. Leading the charge for the Campaigns & Grey Group, we are armed with expert strategies and precise executions plus a relevant, cut-through and award winning arsenal to win every challenge in the marketplace.

Battle-scarred? Yes. Battle-weary? Never. And we've got the stripes to show for it. We've launched some of the country's largest telecommunication accounts like Smart Gold, Smart Buddy and Sun Cellular — with teams as small as 7 people. We've created some of the most memorable and effective Procter & Gamble campaigns, setting world records in Guinness for Joy Dishwashing liquid and making the J-O-Y jingle the most popular song and dance number after "Spaghetti Pababa". We have moved 56-storey condominiums for Ayala Land and have made the Mazda 3 the most desirable car on the road. We have protected Del Monte's undisputed leadership with our lives, and have made drinking gin as hip as drinking beer with GSM Blue.

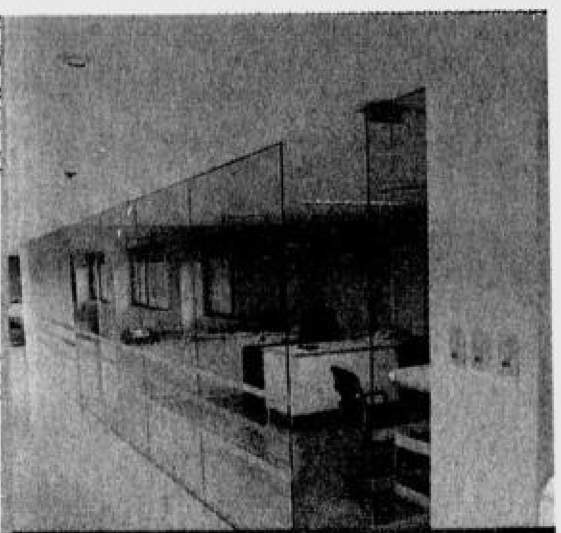
7th & 8th Floors, Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 226
Philippines
Trunk Lines: (632) 88-GREY / (632) 810-386
Fax Number: (632) 810-3854
www.campaignsandgrey.net

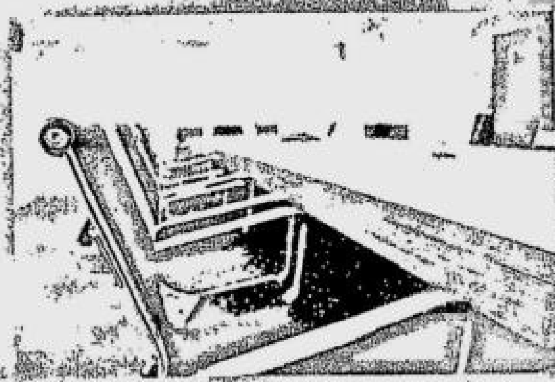
Battle honors include a number of local and international brand building awards from Procter & Gamble and Glaxo-SmithKline, and of course numerous local and international Creative awards, including the first international trophy ever for the agency back in 2003.

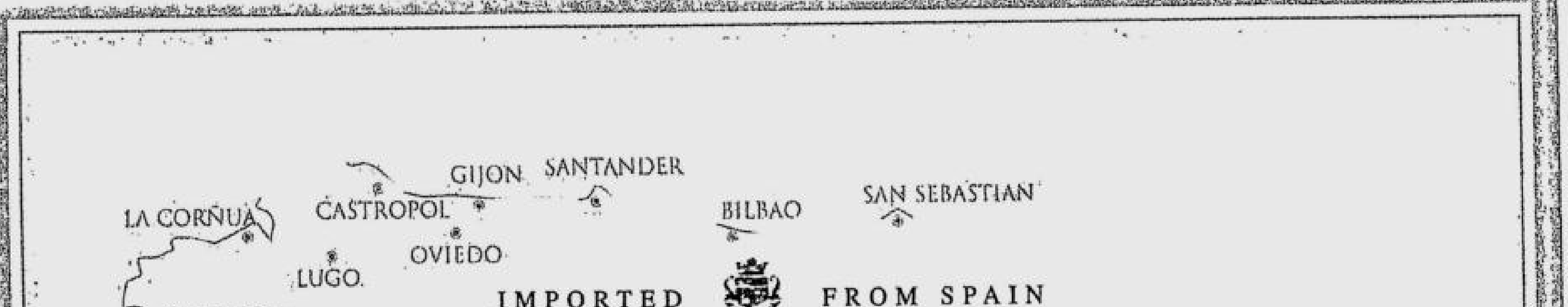
Experience and youth define our attacks, led by the father of strategic planning, Gi Gatchalian; Business Development Head Jev Ramos; Account Management Head Cherry Gutierrez; Account Planning Head Chuchi Quizon; multi-awarded Creative Directors Noel Orosa and Sammy Pasamba; Executive Art Director Jun Carangan; and Executive Creative Director John Amon.

We may be turning 20, but there are certainly no signs of slowing down. For Campaigns & Grey, the fun truly lies in leading the fight, and the fight most definitely keeps us young.

Bring 'em on.






GIJON
SANTANDER
LA CORUÑA
CASTROPOL
BILBAO
SAN SEBASTIAN
OVIEDO
LUGO
IMPORTED FROM SPAIN
SANTIAGO
PAMPLONA
ZAMORA
VALLADOLID
ORENSE
HUESC
VIGO
SALAMANC
SEGOVIA
TUY
AVILA
ZARAGOZA
LLEID
MADRID
CALATAYUD
TERUEL
CUENCA
AMOROSO
ASTELL
E LA PL
TOLEDO
TARANCON
CACERE
VALENC
Solera
BUÑOL
BRANDY DE JEREZ
MERIDA
CIUDA REAL
ALICANTE
LINARES
CORDOBA
JAEN
MURCIA
SEVILLE
CARTAGENA
AYAMONTE
HUELVA
ANTEQUERA
GRANADA
Bodega del Principe
MALAGA
ALMERIA
CTRA. N-IV KM. 640
FROM HERE
PRODUCED & BOTTLED IN JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, SPAIN
ALGECIRAS
RE-221-CA
70 cl e
36% vol.

Much passion: Jerez and Amoroso.

The vibrance and energy of Spain is best experienced in a place called Jerez de la Frontera.

The biggest city and economic center of Cadiz, lying just 9 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, Jerez is the birthplace of the Flamenco, that famous Spanish cultural export where dancers vigorously clap and stamp their feet against a strongly rhythmic accompaniment of the Flamenco guitar.

Even its horses have their share of drama. Jerez is home to a uniquely Spanish art form, the dancing Andalusian horses. It's only at The Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art where you can experience a most enthralling equine ballet, a beautiful mix of music, riders, horses and classical dressage.

And there's the brandy. After all, Jerez de la Frontera is the Spanish capital of brandy.

The people from Jerez are passionate about what comes out of their cellars. It's a tradition that they fiercely nurture, true to honor that Shakespeare even wrote about. Combine all that with the strong sun in the region that gives its brandy a distinctive fruity flavor.

From the cellars of Jerez now comes the new premium brandy, Amoroso. Take a sip of Amoroso, and experience the spirit and character of Jerez and Spain — delicate, exquisite and passionate.

AMOROSO
Solera
BRANDY DE JEREZ

El Amor of Spain

Great Performance brings great Results

CaPRI

It's been recklessly called the "dark art" practiced by partying PR men in expensive restaurants or fancy bars. Still others call it "envelopmental communications," "organized lying," or "make-believe projection." Some simply call it "spin."

Among all the communications disciplines, public relations is probably the most misunderstood. Unfair labels indeed in the context of the contemporary practice that demands a sophisticated business acumen to integrate all corporate functions from marketing to sales to management.

PR is one of the most powerful weapons in the corporate and marketing communications armory. Its importance is undeniable, especially at this time when we witness the emergence of key stakeholder groups whose voices echo as loudly as the media, the financial community, industry analysts, the general public, customers, shareholders and employees. Of late, the reaction to PR has transformed from "so what can it do" to "now what can it do."

These groups – government regulators, special interest groups, policymakers, activists, ratings agencies, lobbyists, corporate and marketing communicators and ordinary people who have taken their opinions to the Internet via blogs, viral email, online bulletin boards and forums — represent the increasing need for PR.

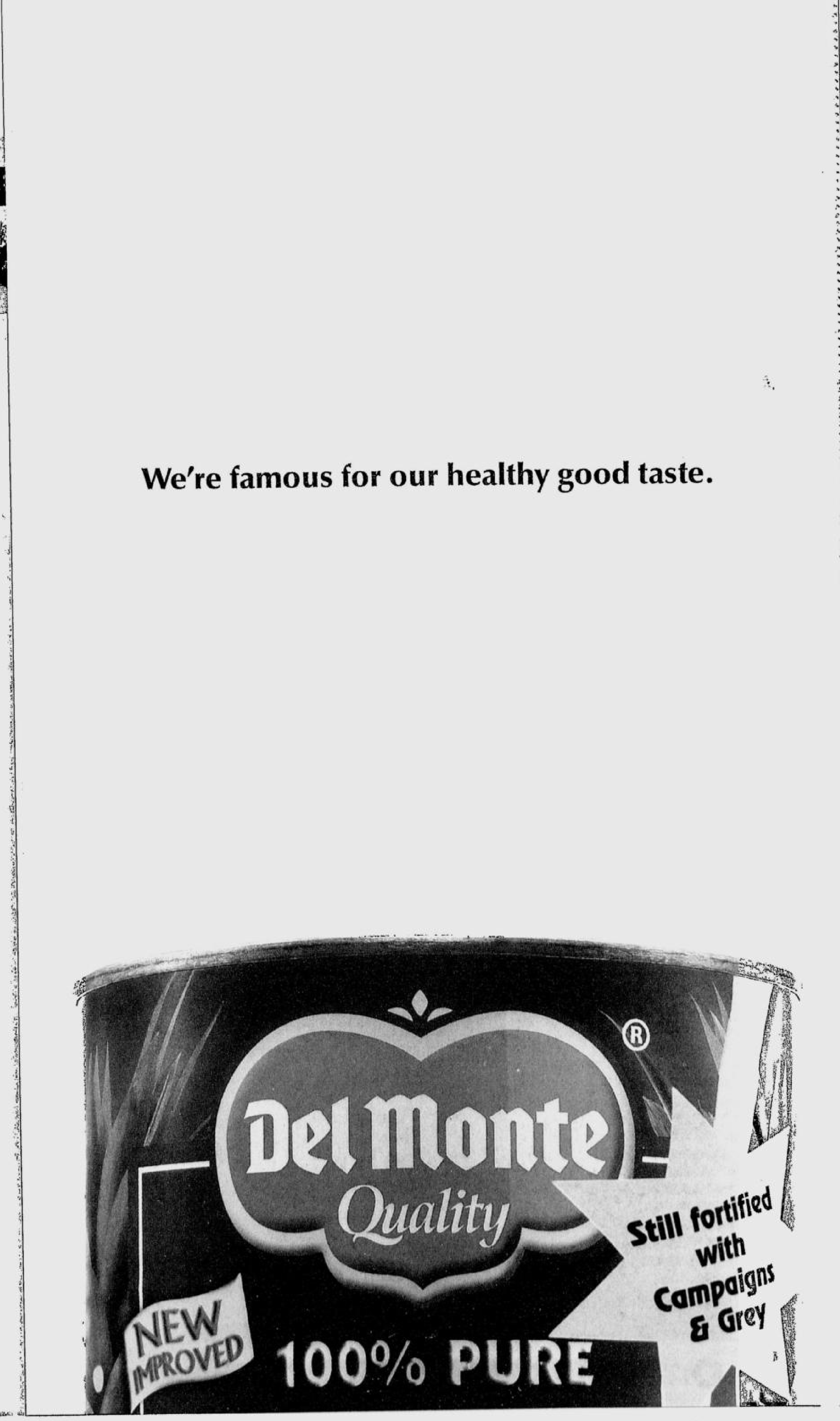
The communications landscape is changing in every market and geography. These changes have a tremendous impact on the communications profession and they are closely related to the other great fragmentation that is taking place — how people find and share information, how they form opinions, or how they get educated. Today's skeptical publics know when they are being informed and when they are being sold to. PR closes the credibility gap because it is the one communications tool devoted to providing information, not salesmanship.

Campaigns PR Inc. (CaPRI), understands the breadth and depth of this communications tool — how it can connect with media, raise profiles, effect organizational changes, deal with communities, influence governments, coalesce with non- profit organizations, link-up with special publics and stage special events that can attract current and desired markets. And we have been honored for this understanding — a spattering of Gold Quills, Anvils, Catholic Mass Media Award trophies for Mirant, Code-NGO, Knowledge Channel, Goodwill Bookstore and Lakas-NUCD's '92 senatorial campaign and an Asian PR Award for USAID's Social Acceptance Project.

This understanding comes from more than 50 years of combined advertising, journalism, communications education and brand, corporate and political public relations experience of CaPRI's president Bong Osorio, PR director Richard Arboleda, media relations manager Arlene Calaguian-Alano and account service people Kathryn Pacana and Pat Malay.

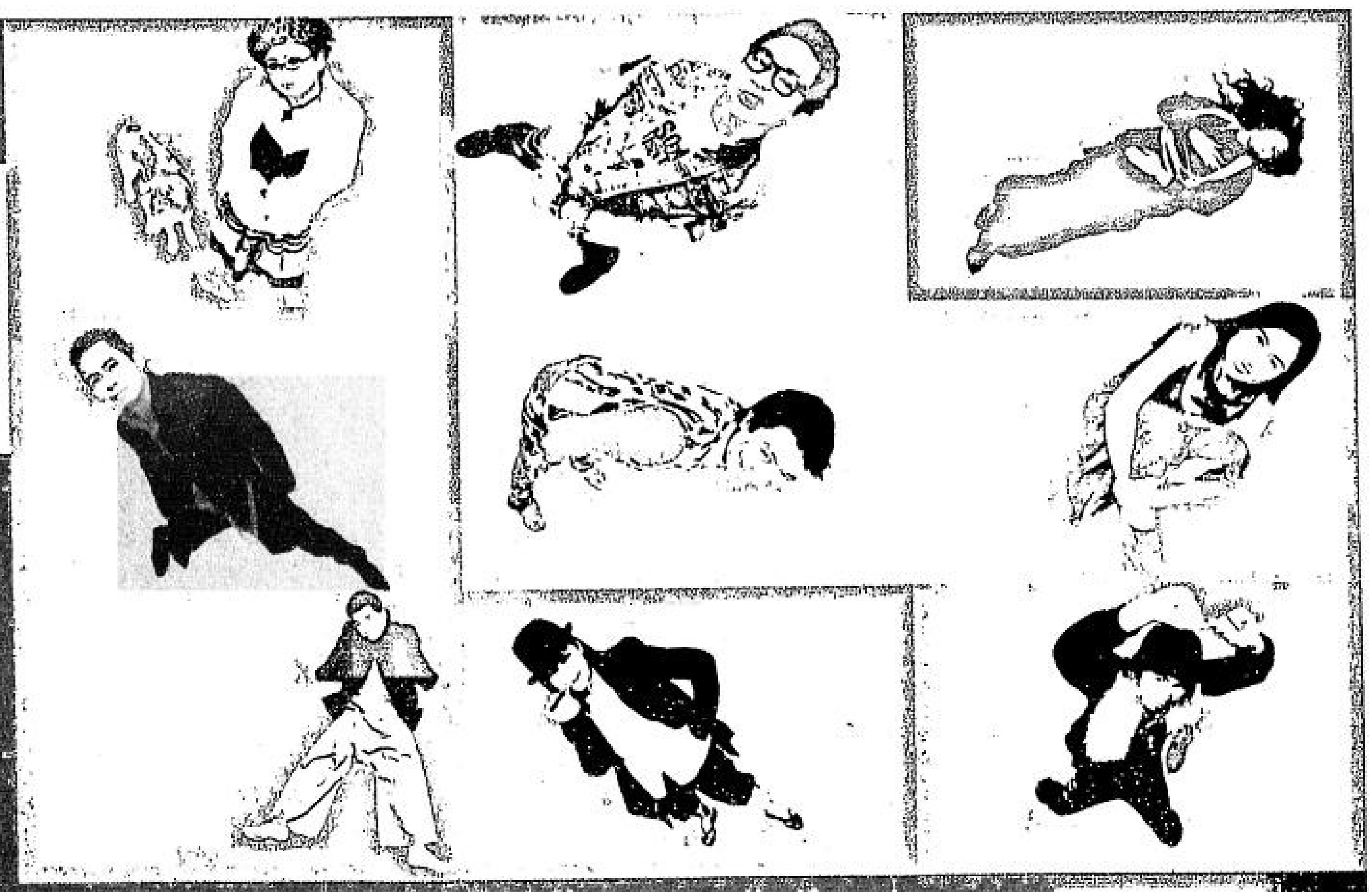
Born in 1992, CaPRI continues to bring meaningful relationships to its clients — Jollibee, Wrigley Philippines, Western Union, Procter & Gamble, Del Monte, IDS Phils., among others — based on mutual trust and respect, defining what success means to them, and developing a strategy to achieve that success. Its clients' goals become its own – allowing them to succeed in ways they didn't think possible. This means sharing clients' perspectives and aspirations as it accomplishes its PR missions.

The principle that "great performance brings great recognition" remains to be a solid PR fundamental. But the way to do a great job and the method to make it known to our publics has indeed expanded to a higher and nobler plain. And CaPRI is proud to be part of this expansion.



We're famous for our healthy good taste.
Del Monte®
Quality
NEW IMPROVED
100% PURE
Still fortified with Campaigns & Grey

Beyond Grey: Neuron is the color of dissent



Neuron's icon is Einstein. It was easy enough for Campaigns' second agency to associate itself with the one person who was thought to have had the best set of brain cells ever. That shaggy visage would also make for good PowerPoint clipart or letterhead watermark.

But Einstein is Neuron's moving figure for more profound reasons. He was the embodiment of pure intellect and daring. His ideas were revolutionary at that time, and challenged ancient prejudices and everyday experience. And they still have a galvanizing effect on popular imagination, proving that what may seem impossible or different at first, would ultimately make sense.

Neuron's work will certainly not reverberate beyond its immediate milieu, as relativity did beyond science. It aims to surprise, at least, and make the ad-weary consumer thrilled during advertising intrusion, not arouse indifference to something as atrocious as Newtonian physics.

The people at Neuron enlivened the celebrity-ridden EDSA landscape with Cindy Kurleto, in pastel-colored Silverworks gems, her face pale and stoic, true to the Catholic demeanor of a Medici woman. To sell Rockwell's Joya, there was no talk about verdant topography – Mamang Sorbetero counterpoints and underscores a lifestyle that's fashionable and ingenious. And, from hereon, expect no clam-shell analogies from Hapee Toothpaste.

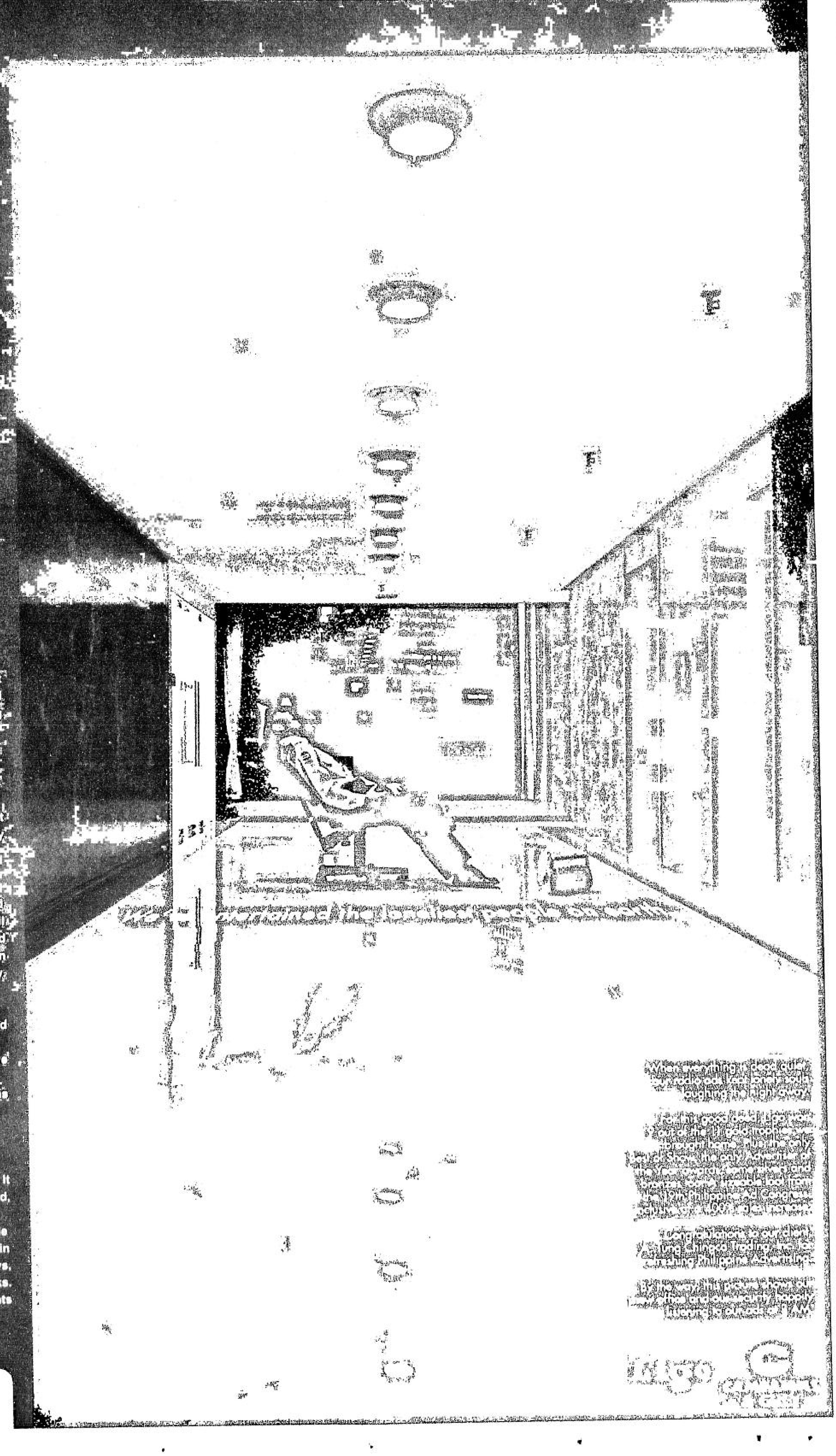
The work is vigorous, sometimes irreverent. It could be borne out of the fact that Neuron's current brands are free from regional encumbrances or global copy models. Most are local, some smaller than their global competitors. Hence, quite enviably, Neuron is expected by its clients to try harder, and conquer conventional wisdom.

The drive to delightfully dissent – Neuron leaders Boboy Consunji (Managing Director) and Ompong Remigio (Executive Creative Director, also Creative Guild Hall of Fame awardee, and the '05 Ad Congress' biggest winner) – take to heart. Before Neuron, they've had 40 years between them, spent with a variety of accounts, mostly multinationals and huge market leaders. They had been part of campaigns that were decided based on facts. They recognized that no one could possibly get all of the facts – and thus see the need to always take that leap of faith in terms of originality and creativity.

Consunji and Remigio foster their commitment to creativity and won't-quit attitude in an agency composed of very young creative and accounts people. Courage, daring and energy are contagious forces that they hope to spread within the agency and to their business partners.

Campaigns is not just grey. It is also colorfully Neuron, a second, independent operation that is programmed to be unpredictable and incredibly different. Einstein is their icon for his maverick ways, and certainly not for how he looks. Mothy sweaters and baggy pants do not make for an interesting color palette.

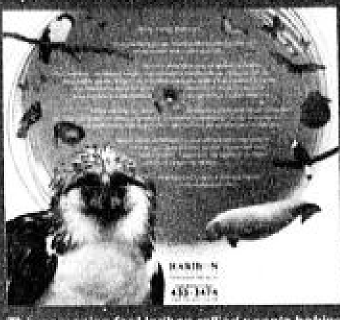
neuron



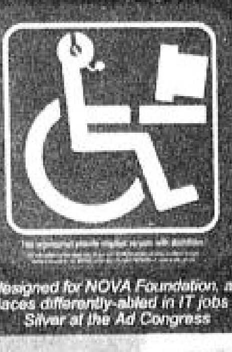
The Crusaders: Why we do what we do

Arbee, Rocky, Marl and Eric — a lean and mean, multi-tasking team.

A recent spot for Procter & Gamble pushed the Department of Health's handwashing campaign.



This campaign for Haribon rallied people behind the country's 'Pinaka' – Flora and Fauna



Signs designed for NOVA Foundation, an NGO that places differently-abled in IT jobs won a Silver at the Ad Congress

Another great example of government-business partnership — the DepEd Textbook Count was supported by Coca-Cola.

Care bears, do-gooders, bleeding hearts. At the office, they call us all these things. We also call ourselves the 'beg ladies', because our clients usually have no money so we have to ask friends and suppliers to give us extra friendly rates. We've offended woodcutters, religious groups and government officials. But we go ahead and do what we do anyway.

Because along the way, we've helped gather a million signatures against logging, raised awareness for family planning, AIDS and teen sexuality, and pricked quite a few voter consciences.

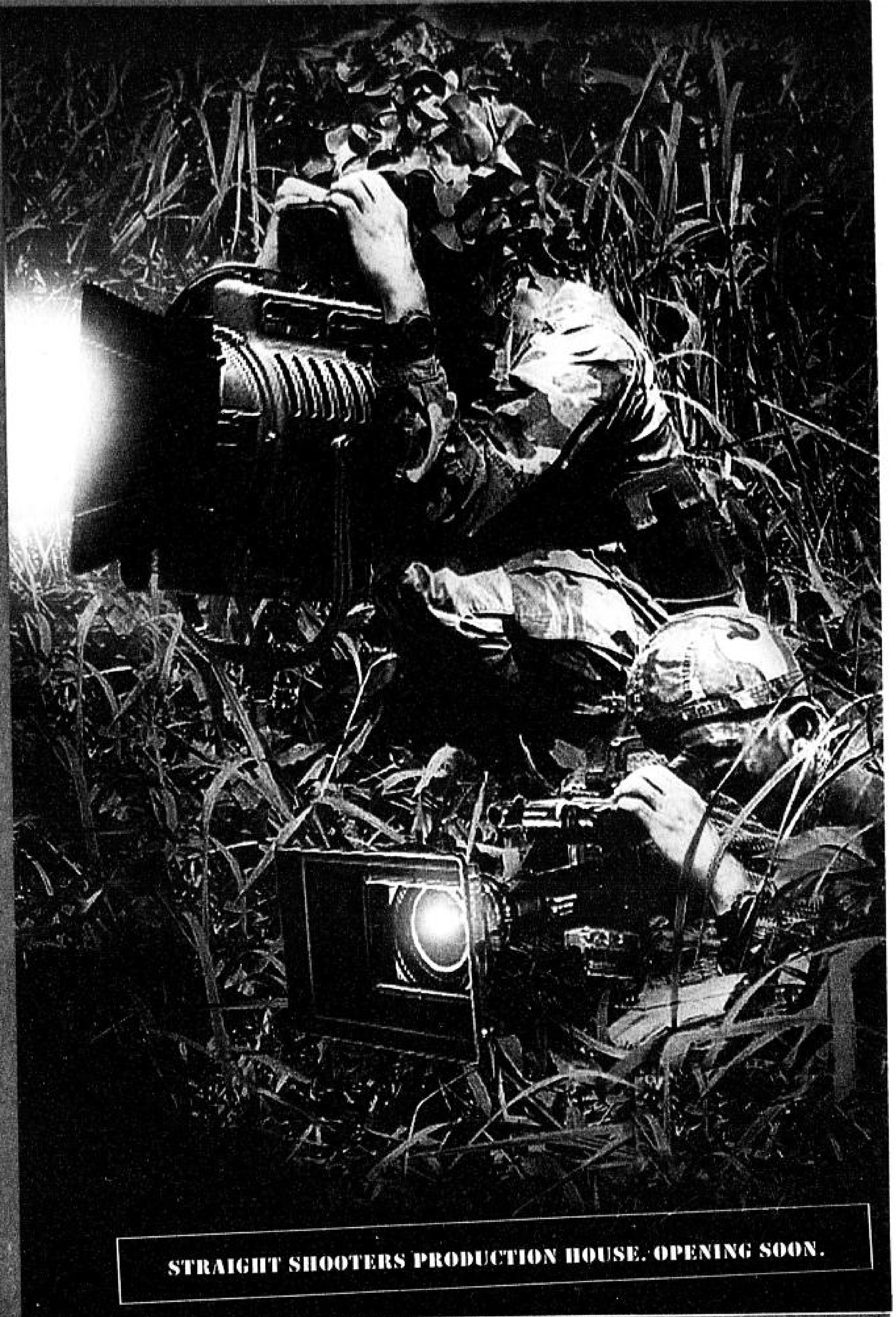
We are Campaigns Social Response, or CSR. In previous lives, we did ads for soap, shampoo, juice and dishwashing liquid. Today, we work mostly with foundations, NGO's and government agencies. But happily, we're also meeting our old clients again; this time because the soap and shampoo makers are getting more involved in advocacy.

We like to think of ourselves as a bridge between business and development work — we connect companies to causes, and we bring marketing and advertising insights to the more academic NGO's. There's much to be learned from both worlds.

We do what we do because we should. There is much to be done in our country, and we can't wait for government to do it all. And in the end, every Filipino that is better educated, better fed and better cared for will be another potential customer for our mainstream clients.

'Beg ladies', do-gooders, un-caped crusaders. Call us what you will, we'll keep doing what we do because we love it.

By: Marl Villapando & Rocky Sanchez Tirona


STRAIGHT SHOOTERS PRODUCTION HOUSE. OPENING SOON.

TO THE ONLY GRAND ARAW AWARD FOR RADIO AT THE 19TH PHILIPPINE ADVERTISING CONGRESS, HAPPY 20TH YEAR!

From your radio-believing friends at

rmn NETWORKS™

HAPPY 20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY TO CAMPAIGNS & GREY, GRANDSLAM WINNER FOR RADIO AT THE 19TH PHILIPPINE ADVERTISING CONGRESS

From your friends at the

MBC MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY

Bacon sizzles!

In a time when people are always on the move, running from one place to another, hardly sitting still, we need to catch them where they are, and not wait for them to turn on the television, tune in to the radio or read the paper. Whether they're driving their car, commuting on the train, sweating it out in the gym, waiting in line at the supermarket or even taking some personal time in the restroom. This meant originating ideas that go beyond tri-media, work that grabs the attention of consumers where and when they least expect it. And so Bacon was born.

Bacon is the new below-the-line arm of the Campaigns group that offers all the exciting possibilities for brand/product activation that lay beyond mainstream advertising.

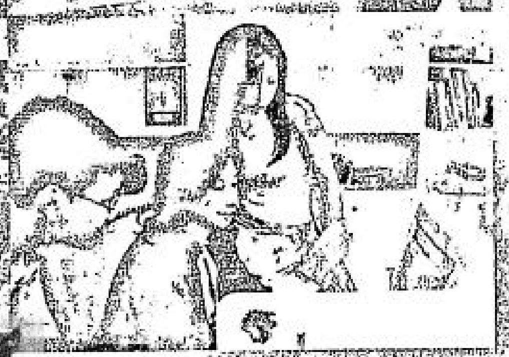
But why Bacon? Bacon stands for crisp, groundbreaking ideas, and sizzling, standout designs. Bacon is smoked to perfection with a wealth of experience from industry stalwarts, Chief Operating Officer, Tol Navarrete and Managing Director, Don Bautista, who share over 20 years in advertising. Tol and Don together with Creative Director, Monette Quiogue lead a team of young, inspired, creative visionaries whose goal is to discover new, non-traditional, out-of-the-box communications to make products and clients rise above the rest.

A tall order, yes, but one that Bacon's all too happy to fill. In the market for a new car? Get sold on the Mazda6 brochure. Hungry? Whet your appetite on the deliciously designed packs of Nissin Sotanghon or Cup Noodles. Got a burger craving? Visit any Jollibee outlet and order one off the new, Bacon-designed menuboards. Learn nutritious, delicious, affordable recipes from Del Monte Kitchenomics recipe brochures and TV cooking demos. Discover why everything important is under the sun from Sun Cellular flyers, posters, banners, and brochures. Even grocery shopping's such a joy with shelf talkers and in-store displays for Joy Dishwashing Liquid and Downy.

This creativity and quest for the unconventional have led to a string of recent new business wins including projects for SM, Procter & Gamble, and real estate developer Earth + Style. All these while actively fulfilling all the below-the-line requirements of the entire Campaigns group.

Bacon's vision is simple: Brand. Design. Inspire. Brand products to make them unforgettable. Design solutions for communications that make brand image and brand message memorable. Inspire and influence consumer purchase intentions to make clients' products profitable.

That is Bacon. Below-the-line that's above it all.



Camp Apple: Take a bite

1995 was definitely an eventful year. Pope John Paul II said mass at Luneta for what the Guinness Book of World Records today lists as the biggest papal crowd at that time, almost 5 million people. The longest solar eclipse in 238 years, lasting 7 minutes and 8 seconds happened on June 20, 1995. The first black american astronaut, Dr. Bernard Harris walked in space. Andre Agassi defeated Pete Sampras to win his first Australian Open title. And Camp Apple, Campaigns & Grey's electronic final art and graphic design division opened its doors.

Campaigns & Grey was one of the first advertising agencies to set up its own electronic studio. Camp Apple, so named because it was solely Macintosh-based, gave it a definite edge over other agencies. With an in-house final art studio, Campaigns & Grey was able to offer faster turnaround and superior quality output for all print projects.

Tol Navarrete, with her vast experience in art direction and print production, heads a team of meticulous, detail-oriented, creative computer graphic artists who ensure that every headline and body copy is in place, every visual is enhanced and every layout is impeccable.

Camp Apple provides its clients with a variety of services that include desktop publishing and pre-press, color separation and printing supervision. When you see a Sun Cellular print ad, Hapee Toothpaste wall calendar, Del Monte recipe brochure, Nissin Sotanghon pack, Downy sachet or Joy Dishwashing Liquid poster, you know that it has gone through the strictest quality control and has met the agency's highest standards.

So take a bite. Camp Apple.

Joy
New Sulit Pack
Joy
ULTRA
Lemon
Sa ₱5.50 sachet ng Joy
kaya ang 2000 na plato!
At pag nilatag ang mga plato singhaba ng pinakamahabang mall sa Visayas!

One chance to own a Z-Loft at Number One Rockwell.

Introducing, the new One Rockwell.
The only high rise with a Z-shaped loft.
To see is to believe: Imagine a unit that spans
the entire length of the building. So that you can see
the sun rise in the East and set in the West.

Own a Rockwell unit for as low as Php 16,500 per month
and attractive payment terms.

One Rockwell
Call 890-6888 or visit www.e-rockwell.com

People First For Mediacom

MEDIACOM
People First ➜ Better Results

You are seated inside your favorite mall cinema, buttered popcorn on your lap, soda on your right hand armrest, lover's elbow on the left, eagerly anticipating the screening of the latest star-laden Hollywood box-office hit. You relate to your companion how your day at the office went, unmindful of the series of advertisements being shown on screen. Then you sense a certain quiet. You hear the soft strains of new age music, shift your eyes and see the words on the screen — movie critics' reviews, must be the first of previews of coming-soon movies. No. It is one more advertisement, for a new scent of a home fragrance brand. Then you imagine that you can smell the scent. What's up? Wait — you actually can smell the scent. It is then you notice that a couple of ladies have descended upon the aisles, aerosol cans in-hand.

Coming out of the theater, you pass by a booth at the lobby. Again, the ladies stationed at the booth have aerosol cans in-hand, offering passersby a sniff of that lovely green tea scent.

You go to the supermarket for a few necessities. A vaguely familiar green visual attracts you and you approach. It is attached to the shelf, a picture of a teacup, with a teabag label at the end of a string that reads, "pull." You do, and that scent comes around again.

These ingenious media placements gained for the home fragrance brand a substantial increase in off-take after only four weeks of selective implementation in a limited number of cinemas. The campaign, initiated by MediaCom Philippines, won in The Results Awards, the MediaCom Worldwide competition recognizing media creativity and effectiveness. It also was cited in part by the advertiser when they awarded MediaCom the AOR (Agency on Record) assignment for all their advertised brands.

It is one illustration of how media planning at MediaCom is guided by a "People First ➜ Better Results" approach that ensures that media strategists look at all areas of consumers' lives in their real world, and how consumers as individuals interact to clients' brands. MediaCom's tools and systems help the planners get closer to consumers, and achieve better results for their clients.

Media planning and buying are done through a locally developed, more than one year in the making, proprietary software. Developed closely with AGB Philippines and AC Nielsen, the groundbreaking MOAS (Media Planning & Administration System) is the only one in the market able to inter-link all local data structures. This tool has helped improve the efficiency of the buys, generating incremental values as much as 30% for certain media campaigns. Coupled with sharp negotiating skills, some advertisers have seen their media budgets work as effectively as in previous years, in spite of rising media costs and the increased clutter.

But tools are just that: tools to be used effectively by dedicated and well-trained people. MediaCom is led by its president, Lito "Boy" Pangilinan, who has served twice as chairman of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4A's-P) and as long-time director of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard). His more than 25 years of media experience include a regional post covering the Asia Pacific, as well as stints in media research and media sales and marketing. Assistant Vice-President Chiqui Lizada and Media Directors Chuck Nitorreda and Irene Choa work with a team of eager and able media specialists.

MediaCom Philippines is part of MediaCom Worldwide, the fastest growing media network in the Americas, and #2 in growth worldwide. It is the home of the Cannes 2005 Grand Prix Media Lion, an award it won for work on P&G Israel. MediaCom belongs to Group M, WPP's media agency group, and the largest worldwide.

Camp Cebu
The Demise of "Lost in Translation"

CAMPAIGNS CEBU

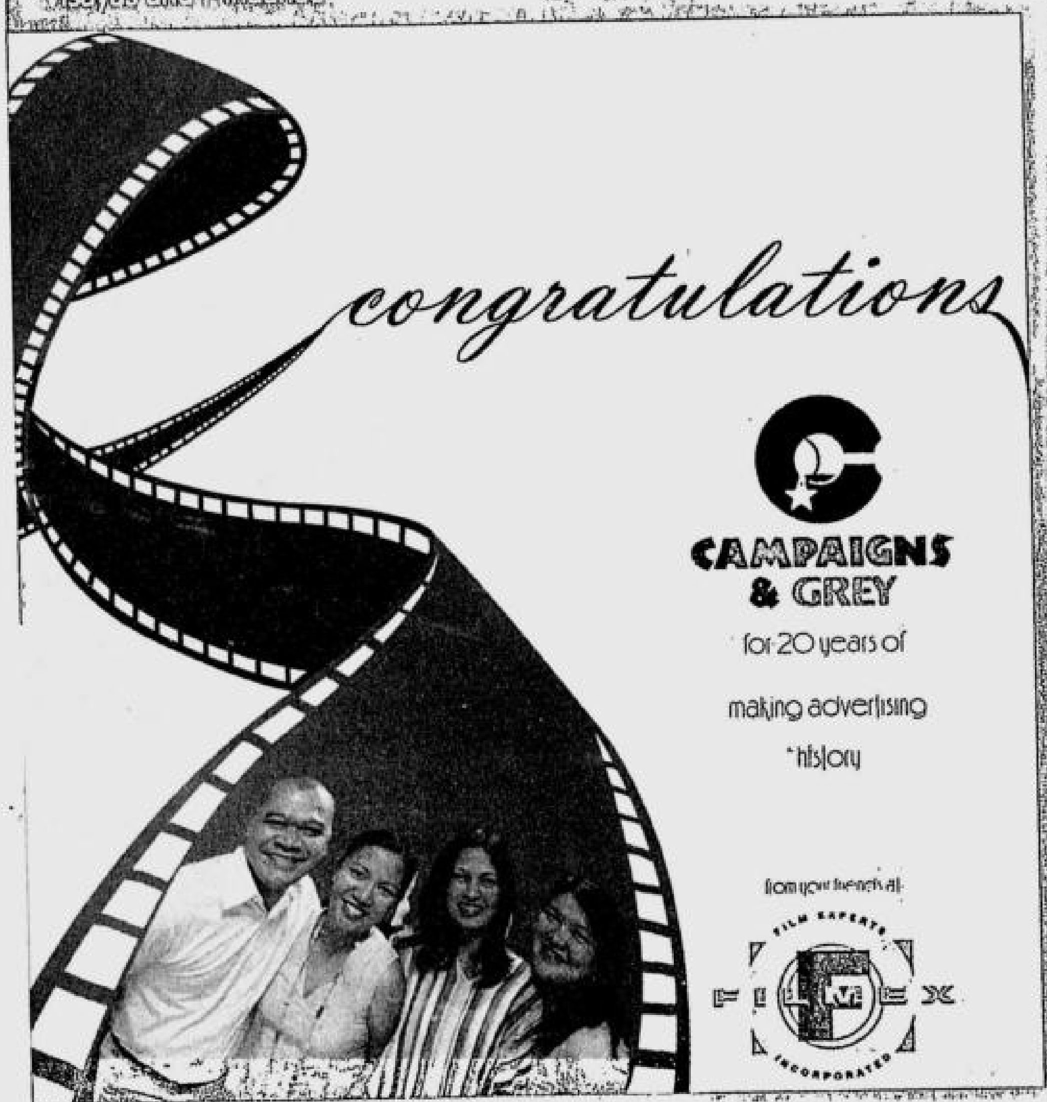
Ever wonder why some national brands sell better in the south? Or why a competitor's brand is embraced in Mindanao like a long-lost comrade while yours is eyed, sniffed and poked at but deemed not quite what is needed or wanted? For Manila-based marketing executives, it does take some getting used to the idea that there is an untamed, breathing being of a market below Luzon.

Campaigns Cebu saw such a creature hibernating some twelve years ago and boldly ventured into the south, swords drawn and pennants flying. True-blue Cebuano Zen Pastoriza and his wife Vicki began a crusade to make professional, strategically sound advertising services available and affordable in Cebu and other parts of Visayas and Mindanao.

One illustration is the case of dialect translation. No matter how well crafted or relevant an English or Taglish message is, it either takes on new life or perishes at the hands of bad, inaccurate or tepid translation.

A Manila-based creative team can only hope to capture local flavor while Campaigns Cebu can accurately claim, "we are local flavor". Creative Director Alex Uypuanco points to the campaign for Ginebra San Miguel's Vino Kulafu as one such triumph. Julie's Bakeshop is another study in how a local brand name can spread its network in Metro Manila and Luzon, "With a little help from Campaigns Cebu", says Zen.

Campaigns Cebu is now ready to set up shop in Mindanao. This little company leads the great adventure, showing how to stroke the powerful creature, how to murmur soothingly in true Cebuano, and take brands triumphantly through the tricky trails of the south.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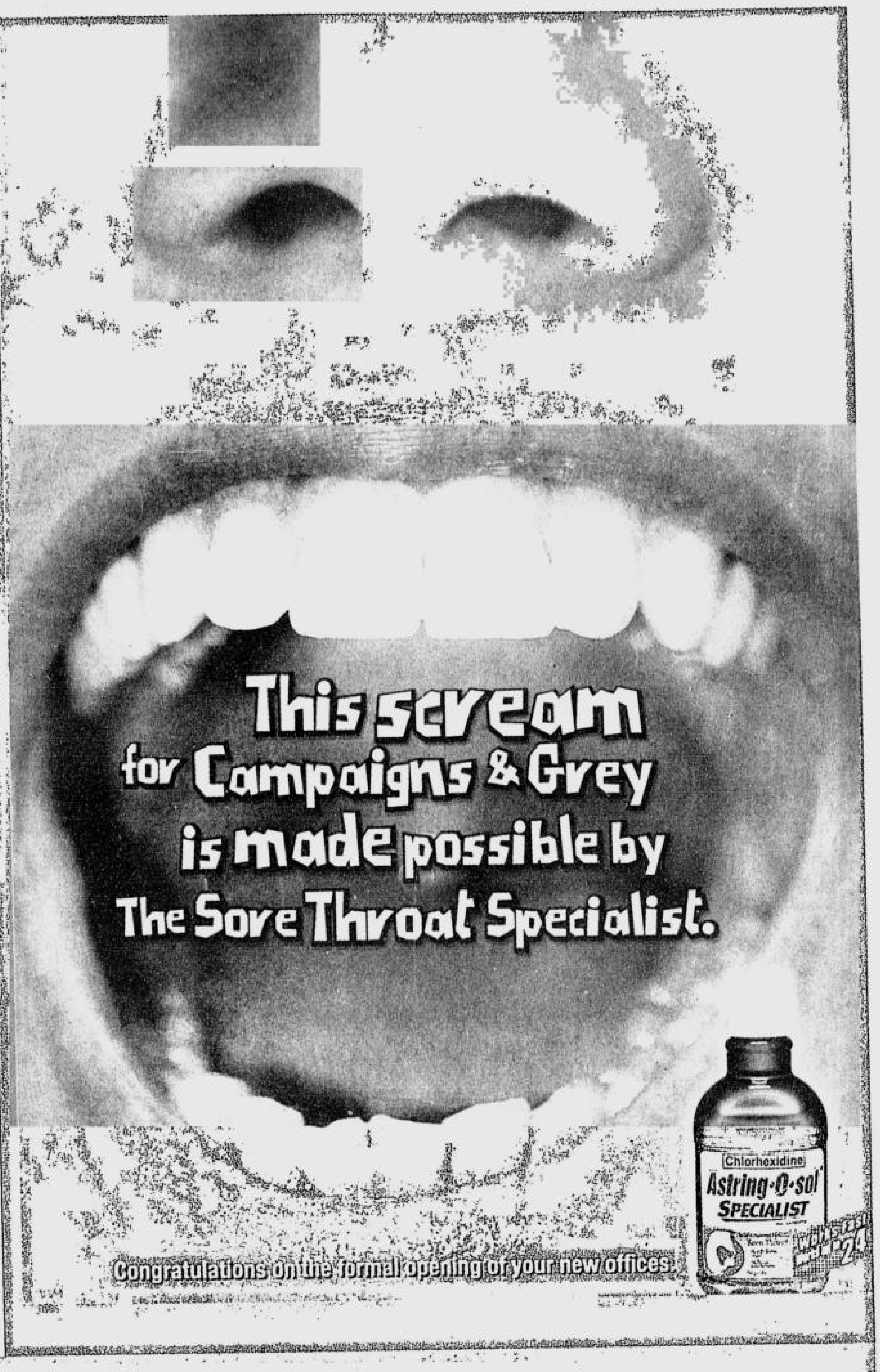
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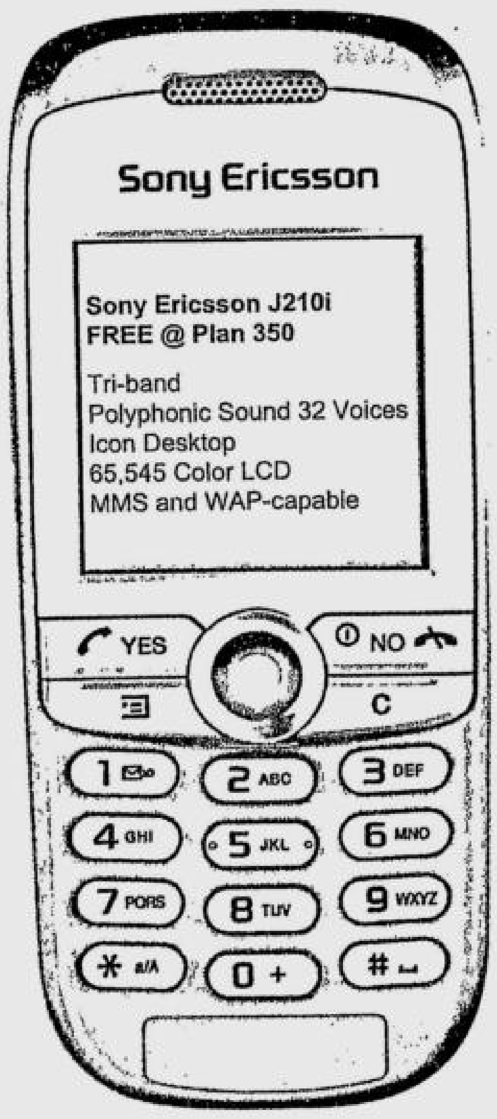
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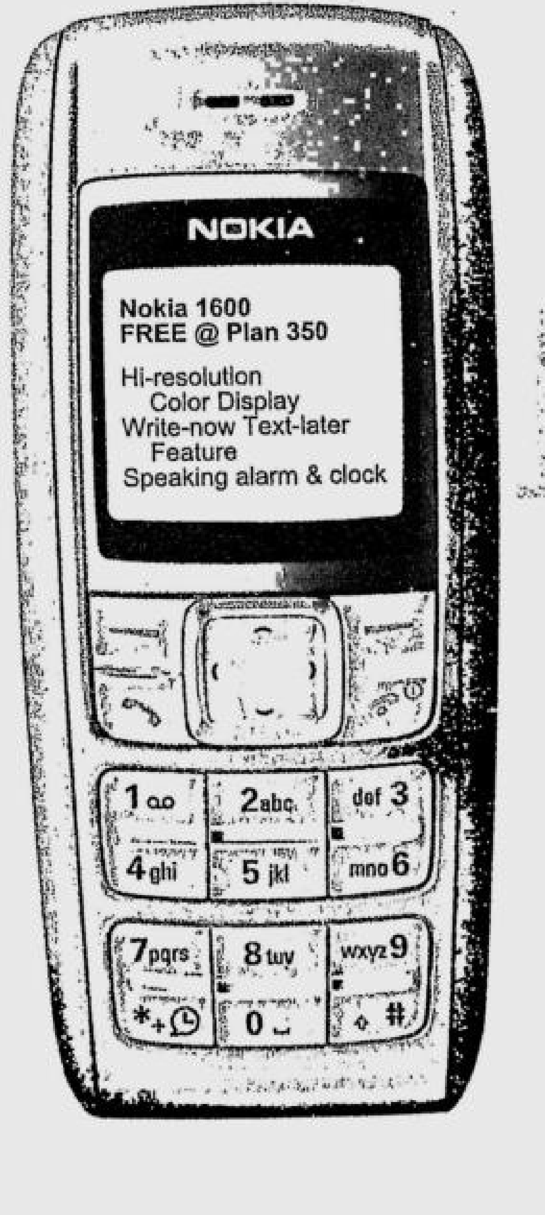
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Hi-resolution Color Display
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**Since these guys have been working so hard for us, we've decided to give them a little space.
Happy 20th Anniversary, Campaigns & Grey.**

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